GRAPEVINE™
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Schlage Lock Property Awaits Proposed Sale

With a sale of the Schlage Lock property on Bayshore Boulevard still pending between current owner Ingersoll Rand and Universal Paragon Corporation (UPC), a UPC team will present a plan for remediation and development of the site during a meeting on Saturday, Nov. 3, from 10 a.m. to12 noon at the Visitacion Valley Community Center, 66 Raymond Ave.

Neighbors Join to Combat Violence in Visitacion Valley

by Betty Parshall

The meeting hall at the Visitacion Valley Community Center (VVCC) was filled to capacity Thursday, Oct. 4 as people turned out to address the issue of violence in Visitacion Valley. Present were Captain Dennis O'Leary, the new captain at Ingleside Police Station, Dr. Joe Marshall who is on the Police Commission and is the director of the Omega Boys Club, Cindy Brandon from Project SAFE, Mikail Ali, Acting Director of the Mayor's Office of Criminal Justice, and several representatives from community based organizations.

Julie Kavagnah, executive director of VVCC established the purpose of the meeting, saying it was for all residents of the Valley and for all the people the community had lost to gun violence. She read a list of victims' names, saying that all people have a right to live, and that all life is sacred.

Veronica Hunnicutt, president of the community center board of directors, followed to say there was a need for community members to get to know one another better, increase awareness of these increasing acts of violence and then work together to make the community safer.

Captain O'Leary said he and other city representatives wanted to hear from the community and that they were there to listen. And listen they did as residents lined up to take a turn at the microphone to express their feelings on issues of violence and murder in the Valley.

Comments included a wide range of emotions and opinions:

*There is both fear and despair from the frequent gunshots heard.

*Mothers don't want their children to go outside.

*The Witness Protection Program is a joke, not to be depended on.

*We must find a way to get rid of all the guns being carried.

*We need to include the youth of the entire community in these discussions.

*There are young people who expect that they will be dead by the time they reach age 25, and seemingly accept this as a fact of life.

One man spoke of growing up in the neighborhood when sports and activities for Valley youth held at the VVCC gym and in local parks offered deterrents to a life of crime. "Where can they go now?" he saked.

Another speaker described how she and others at the meeting had been in grief from attending many funerals of young people they knew. So much money is spent for service programs, she pointed out. And where are the positive results?

And comments from the community continued:

"There are certain truths we must acknowledge in order to move forward."

"Sunnydale is disconnected from the greater Visitacion Valley community."

"We must acknowledge that racial and ethnic bias exists."

"We may not like these statements, but it is the truth and "the truth will set us free."

"We must take responsibility for reporting crimes, and what we witness."

"We are our own critical response team."

"We must discuss these issues as an entire community in order to progress beyond mistrust and bias."

"We are all human beings with common needs and a common desire to live in a safe neighborhood."

Dr. Joe Marshall invited parents to bring their sons to the Omega Boys Club and spoke of excellent results he had in working to direct young men to positive life styles and goals. As a commissioner, he recently had attended a national conference and learned the situation plaguing the neighborhood was common across the country. New ideas needed to be devised and implemented, he explained, with all efforts absolutely inclusive of all smaller communities within Visitacion Valley.

Sharon Hewitt, director of Community Leadership Academy Emergency Response (CLAER), also spoke of services her organization provided while a social worker at Visitacion Valley Middle School advised of services available on site at the school. A representative from Project SAFE also said the organization stood ready to work with the neighborhood.

Veronica Hunnicutt delivered the pledge of the VVCC Board of Directors to continue the effort with focus group meetings to discuss and to make plans for positive action to combat violence. Before the meeting concluded, all in attendance stood for a brief period of silence in memory of all victims of violence.

For more information or to sign up for focus groups please contact Julie Kavanagh at (415) 467-2341 or email jkm227@sbcglobal.net

Bay Area Unveils Disaster Response Management Tool

Mayor Gavin Newsom and the Bay Area SUASI (Super Urban Area Security Initiative) recently announced the launch of www.HelpBayArea.org, a secure, web-based disaster response management tool.

This system offers the 10 Bay Area counties' disaster and volunteer organizations a highly effective means for notifying and managing emergency responders — from the initial registration and credential verification, through mobilization, on-site check-in, tracking, and demobilization.

The City and County of San Francisco (CCSF) is the first jurisdiction in the nation to use this system to manage its employees in the event of a major disaster. To that end, the City has begun to integrate data from the existing human resources management system for our 32,000 employees into the new HelpBay Area. org system.

"San Francisco has taken the lead on this project, and we believe that it will serve as a regional and national model for managing disaster response," said Mayor Gavin Newsom. "*HelpBayArea.org* will form a key part of the City's Disaster Service Worker Program." See Page 9

Valley Library Now Open Mondays

In an effort to expand library hours and services throughout the city, the San Francisco Public Library added new hours and new open days in October at nine branch libraries in Visitacion Valley and the Bayview, Ingleside, Merced, Mission Bay, Ocean View, Park, Portola, and Western Addition neighborhoods.

On Oct. 22, the Visitacion Valley Branch at 45 Leland Ave. began offering service on Monday from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Mondays, celebrating the new day with an afternoon show of juggling and comedy featuring Owen Baker-Flynn.

The Ocean View, Merced and Park branches are also now open from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Mondays.

Beginning Oct. 25, the Bayview/Anna E. Waden Branch added morning and evening hours on Thursdays and is now open 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. The Portola, Ingleside and Mission Bay branches are now open Sundays from 1 to 5 p.m. The Western Addition Branch will also open on Sundays from 1 to 5 p.m. to provide service seven days a week when it reopens in early 2008.

The addition of these hours reflects the Library's commitment to ensuring that every San Francisco community has optimal access to library services and resources.

The nine locations were selected based on a study identifying which geographic areas would most benefit from additional library service.

Of the nine libraries, seven were only open only five days a week. The Bayview/Anna E. Waden Branch was open six days a week, but lacked morning and evening hours on Thursdays which would have directly benefit children and teens.

The library developed the extension plan with the input of community groups such as the Library Citizens Advisory Committee and the Council of Neighborhood Libraries; with support from Mayor Gavin Newsom, the Board of Supervisors and the Library Commission.

These increases will give people who work during the week more opportunities to utilize library services on Sunday, while additional hours on Monday are ideal for childcare groups, students after school and library users of all ages who benefit from additional morning or evening access.

"This is a testament to the remarkable support San Franciscans give to their libraries," said City Librarian Luis Herrera. "Our libraries remain a safe haven of learning for residents of all ages and backgrounds, and they continue to serve as true anchors in their respective neighborhoods. I am so pleased that the staff who led this effort engaged community members and responded to neighborhood needs."

McLaren Park Art Proposals On Display

by Betty Parshall

The proposals for a public art project in McLaren Park prepared by three environmental artists will be on display during the week of Nov. 19 through Nov. 28 at the Portola Branch Library located at 2450 San Bruno Ave. Public comment is invited.

The artists, Mark Brest van Kempen, Gloria Bornstein, and Peter Richards and Susan Schwartzenberg (who work as a team) all have created a wide range of large-scale artworks for other parks and outdoor urban settings.

The artwork is a joint project of the San Francisco Arts Commission and the SF Public Utilities Commission that evolved from the La Grande Replacement Water Tank construction located above the reservoir on the north boundary of the park.

The artists' presentation of their proposals to the Arts Commission will be held at the Commission's office on Friday, Nov. 30, beginning at 1 p.m. at 25 South Van Ness Ave., Suite 70 (in the basement).

The artists have been requested to provide a .pdf of their work for posting on the Arts Commission web site. You can check the Commission's web site at www.sfartscommission.org during the last part of November and e-mail your comments.

Police Commission to Meet in Valley

by Betty Parshall

The San Francisco Police Commission will hold its meeting in Visitacion Valley on Thursday, Nov. 1 from 6 to 8 p.m. at Visitacion Valley Community Center (VVCC), 50 Raymond Ave.

At a community meeting held at VVCC on Thursday, Oct. 4, Commissioner Dr. Joe Marshall mentioned that he had recently attended a national conference and learned that the challenges of increasing violence is a national problem.

He stressed that new ideas are needed with input from the entire community if we are to make our neighborhood a safer place to live.

The Commission holds its meetings in neighborhoods from time to time in order to hear the residents' concerns and suggestions. According to the Commission's website information, the agenda provides for public comment, with speakers limited to three minutes each.

This is an opportunity for Valley residents to make their concerns known directly to the Police Commission and present possible solutions in combating violence.

Goodwill Job Graduates in Valley

At a recent graduation ceremony of the Visitacion Valley Goodwill Job Training Project, all graduates received their Certificates of Completion from Supervisor Sophie Maxwell's office. All graduates earned job placements with Goodwill — some at Goodwill locations as far away as San Carlos — and now have new paid training and life opportunities. The Job Training Project is held at the Beacon Centerinside Visitacion Valley Middle School, 450 Raymond Ave., Room 101.

Grapevine Mailbox

Praise for VVMS Principal

Recently sent to Visitacion Valley Middle School Principal Jim Dierke on being named National Middle School Principal of the Year.

We were glad to hear that you have been named the national Middle School Principal of the Year.We are proud of you, of VVMS and our whole community. Keep up the great work.
Julie Kavanagh, Director, Visitacion Valley Community Center

Positive Image of Valley

Thank you for working hard to make our Grapevine more accessible to our communities.

2007 is a special year for me because I have finally retired from my public, Newcomer Elementary School, the Chinese Education Center, on my 35th year in the same school.

In May, the SFUSD, our teachers' Union and our Mayor held the first retirement reception (my input!) at City Hall for our public retirees. Three Chinese newspapers covered the event and many of my former students read about my upcoming retirement.

On June 11, the press and radio also covered my schoolwide retirement party at my own school.

In a September issue of Asian Week, the editor, Samson Wong, wrote about my work in Visitacion Valley.

Although my poster-size photos have been at the Third Street lightrail stations since April, some of my limited-English neighbors still ask me why my pictures are there. Unfortunately, they could not read the English-only notation about the awardees.

At this huge community event, both our Speaker of the House and our Mayor were present. I was recommended for this honor because my 41 years of Muni ridership has given me some experience to provide input to our transportation system. And, for more than 10 years, I repeatedly requested seven days of #9 Express buses for the convenience of thousands of riders in our Southeast sector.

Yesterday, a waiter of a restaurant told me that the #9 Express is so convenient that his elderly parents can frequent Chinatown anytime so he would not have to drive them. He said that such convenient transportation indirectly increases our property values. I believe it because our properties are almost comparable to the Sunset District!. (Please note that in the Bayview, their community leaders and residents provided input to the T-Line, not me.).

On September 15th, needless to say, I was thrilled to receive my community service award at the Immigrant Rights Commission Summit, and special commendations from State Senator Migden and Assemblyman Leno. Wow! This beautiful award is very meaningful to me because it was voted by my former peers and commissioners at the IRC. (I served two terms as a appointee of Mayor Brown.) Full credit should be given to Assemblyman Leno, whose initiative created the only commission for immigrants in America. He also spearheaded the Equal Access Ordinance (EAO) to mandate all San Francisco's Tier 1 City departments to include Spanish and Chinese translations.

After my retirement, folks often ask if I have ventured off to distant lands for fun. Not yet! Friends who get my emails after midnight know that I am still keeping a rigorous schedule to address a lot of issues of concern to me.

Last month I started the trilingual petition to get signatures for "Healthcare For All". I hope our readers and concerned residents will help this worthwhile effort. America is the richest nation in the world so our citizens should be provided with basic health care needs, right?

Please note that Muni mistakenly included 34 Leland Ave, my brand-new building, on my Muni poster. While a representative of the Planning Department and even Sophie Maxwell praised the beautiful exterior and interior designs, potential renters outside our community hardly consider our neighborhood. Last year, when I tried to list my two very spacious flats, potential renters also praised my property but showed concerns because of the "Visitacion Valley" location.

More than 20 years ago, after many Chinese moved into Vis Valley , they started to call our community "Ngau Goong" which literally means "Cow Palace." Being "political orphans" for many years (even Mayor Newsom mentioned it last month when he came with the $4.1 Leland Avenue improvement plan) the Chinese old timers still refer this inaccurate translation because of its former association and the previous Chinese press' sensationalization of a "a crime-ridden community." I have repeatedly pointed to the Chinese press of the correct transliteration of our community as "Fong Gook Kui" which is "Visitacion Valley District."

To counteract this bad image, Ken Hu, of the prominant Sing Tao newspaper recently did a whole page about our up-and-coming Visitacion Valley and featuring Mayor Newsom's announcement of $4.1 to improve Leland Avenue. However, the Chronicle counteracted with an article that regressed to our former troubling years.

Regardless, thanks to the concerns and efforts of our community leaders, let's continue to push hard to fight for our community needs.

Besides our first priority of a safer neighborhood, we need our City to provide more programs for our youth. In past community meetings, I was told that Visitacion Valley has the highest or second highest youth population in San Francisco .So, our younger generation should have appropriate neighborhood programs to nurture them, right?

From weekly neighbors' requests, I know the after-school program I am planning at 34 Leland Avenue will not be able to meet the needs of the hundreds of children in Visitacion Valley. So, let's open the dialogue and invite concerned parents to seek programs for our youth. For example, we can invite the active Visitacion Valley parents' group of the Chinese for Affirmative Action and all the neighborhood groups to a community meeting to brainstorm for ideas.

The Sunday Chronicle had an article about Bill Gates $130 million to New York schools.He validates the need of phonics for the reading successes of thousands of my non-English speaking students during my 36 years of teaching adults(CCSF) and children(SFUSD).

Aside from helping schools, I believe a key component to helping youth is to build innovative learning centers in needy communities. Monetary incentives (yes, this "carrot" really works!) can be given to parents who accompany their children to these learning sites for them to supervise and help with their kids' homework. They can learn parental skills or take classes to upgrade themselves. Then both parents and children can focus on their homework tasks without so many distractions from home. Paid teachers can staff the sites to provide extra help. Incentives can be given to children who meet complete their tasks. We often say it takes a village to educate a child but our society hasn't enough well-planned and workable solutions to help them.
Marlene Tran

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Important Valley Meetings

Dear Neighbors:

There are going to be two very important meetings in the next month.

*Saturday, Nov. 3, 10 a.m. to12 noon at the Visitacion Valley Community Center, 66 Raymond Ave. If the negotiations between Ingersoll Rand (owner of Schlage Lock) and Universal Paragon Corporation (UPC) are successful, Schlage Lock will become the property of UPC and remediation (clean-up of toxic areas) and the design process will begin soon. The UPC team will present its plan for remediation and discuss the overall process for the development of the site. This will, hopefully, be the moment we have all been working towards for the last nine years. We are keeping our fingers crossed that the negotiations work out. It cannot be stressed enough how important it is that we all be engaged in helping guide the Schlage Lock Development.

*Saturday, Nov. 10, 10 a.m. to 12 noon at the Visitacion Valley Community Center, 66 Raymond Ave. Representatives from the Mayor's Office and the developer, Lennar, will give a presentation on proposed development at Candlestick Point. As you know, there is a proposal by the developer, Lennar, to develop Candlestick Point along with Hunters Point. At Candlestick alone, there would be an extraordinary amount of new housing, retail (including big box retail) and an 8,000 person arena for various events and some open space. At Hunter's Point, there would be a new 49ers Stadium, housing and commercial development. Traffic would be be a major issue, as well as other social/visual/economic impacts on our neighborhood. This is the time for all of us to voice our opinions about what we would like to see at Candlestick Point and find out what Lennar is proposing.

The face of the Valley will be changing forever in the next few years. The next several weeks will mark a significant turning point that will require our combined efforts and attention. There is going to be a steep learning curve. It is a scary time, but also an opportunity to participate in making our Valley a better place for us and future residents. I am excited and hope you will be able to attend these particularly critical meetings.
Fran Martin

Pilot Program to Pay Parking Meters with Use of Cell Phones

Mayor Newsom on Sept. 28 announced that the San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency (SFMTA) is instituting a pay by cell phone pilot project for San Francisco's parking meters. The program, which began on Sept 10, will finish after 90 days.

"Feeding your parking meter with a cell-phone is a no-brainer," said Mayor Newsom. "Other cities around the world already use this technology, so there's no reason for us to not give our residents the same advantage."

With a pay by cell phone system, drivers can call a local or toll-free phone number posted on a meter to set up their initial customer account. During this initial set up, drivers will be asked to provide a credit card number.

After an account is established, the driver's cell phone number will be automatically linked with their account, and they can begin to pay for meter time with their cell phone by entering the eight digit meter number and the amount of time they need. They will also receive a text message reminder before time runs out and can add more time (up to the time limit) without having to return to the meter.

During the pilot project, a driver must set up a separate account in each test area. For example, a driver that has established an account with Verrus Mobile Technologies, Inc. for the 8th Avenue parking lot in the Inner Richmond will have to establish a new account with Zipidy, Inc. when they park in the Pierce Street lot in the Marina. This allows the SFMTA to evaluate and compare multiple technologies at the same time.

SFMTA will also be evaluating the various methods used by companies to charge fees to drivers for the pay-by-cell phone service. One company will charge a 35 cent per transaction customer service fee, one company will charge a $5 per month user fee, and one company will provide the service for free.

During the 90-day pilot period, SFMTA has been collecting customer comments on the new technology through a phone number displayed on the pay stations: (415) 503-2060.

Saturdays are Special At Randall Museum

The Randall Museum offers drop-in, hands-on art and science workshops every Saturday from 1 to 4 p.m. at 199 Museum Way (off Roosevelt, above the Castro). Workshops are $3 per child; $5 for a parent and child combo.

All kids under 8 must be with a paying adult. Call 554-9600 for further information.

*Nov. 3: Experience the magic of shaving cream and liquid watercolor as you make marbled paper greeting cards.

*Nov. 10: Make your own simple dancing marionette puppet.

*Nov. 17: Experience the art of gyotaku, Japanese for fish printing, with rubber fish.

*Nov. 24: Learn an easy way to draw a labyrinth and render it in watercolor resist.

Other regular Saturday activities include:

*Morning Family Ceramics from 10 to 11:30 a.m. ($5 per person workshop fee)

*Meet the Animals from 11:15 a.m. to 12 noon.

*Animal Feeding at 12 noon.

*Golden Gate Model Railroad Club Exhibit from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Embracing Our Responsibilities to be America's Leading Clean Energy City

by Mayor Gavin Newsom

San Francisco achieved another historic milestone last month in our efforts to be America's leading city for solar power and clean energy when I joined officials from the San Francisco International Airport and the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission (SFPUC) to unveil the city's newest solar energy project on the roof of SFO's Terminal #3. This new 456 kilowatt system will draw enough power from the sun to provide all the daytime lighting needs of within Terminal #3 as well as excess power to spare. The new solar energy project at SFO plays an important role in reducing greenhouse gas emissions that contribute to climate change as well, preventing more than 7,000 tons of carbon dioxide from discharge into the air vs. traditional fossil fuel energy generation and achieving the equivalent greenhouse gas reduction of planting 150,000 trees or taking 1500 cars off the road.

The SFO solar project is one of many completed by the City this year, with more than a megawatt of solar power generation installed in 2007 alone. New projects at SFO, the Pier 96 Norcal Recycling Center, SFPUC wastewater and water facilities, the Chinatown Library and Maxine Hall Community Center, combined with our successful large solar energy projects at Moscone Convention Center and other locations; have already made San Francisco America's leading solar energy city, with more than 2 megawatts of solar energy generation online, or enough solar energy to power more than 2,000 homes for a year.

I'm very proud that we have quadrupled the amount of solar power generated by City projects in just three years. The SFPUC is also working with City departments to identify other locations ideal for solar power generation, including other reservoirs, libraries, parking structures and City rooftops. And soon the City will provide solar energy and City-generated clean energy to the new community and thousands of homes under construction at the former Hunters Point Naval Shipyard.

As a City, under our Climate Action Plan, we are committed to measurably and dramatically reducing our greenhouse gas emissions to 20 percent below 1990 levels by 2012. I have made moving the City towards cleaner, more efficient, more renewable energy generation one of my highest priorities as Mayor. These solar energy projects are rapidly moving the City towards achieving those goals. But they're really just the beginning of what we envision and what it yet to come. I'm proud that San Francisco is not just "talking the talk," but taking real action to reduce our reliance on fossil fuels and power our city through clean, renewable energies. These include:

Hydropower – San Francisco's great Hetch Hetchy water system doesn't just deliver some of America's best tasting and purest tap water – it also generates 20 percent of San Francisco's energy. The SFPUC provides electricity to the city's most vital public services, including S.F. General Hospital, Muni Railway, our schools, fire stations, the airport and streetlights. Decades before global warming focused our attention on reducing emissions, San Francisco developed a renewable source of emissions-free energy.

Biofuels – The City fleet is on track for conversion to clean biodiesel under my Executive Directive. In addition, every year, thousands of gallons of oil and grease are dumped by residents and businesses down the drain, blocking sewer lines and creating backups during major rainstorms. Last month, the SFPUC launched a program to collect that grease directly from restaurants and process it to prevent sewer blockages and produce a major source of renewable biofuel for city vehicles.

Tidal, Wave and Geothermal Power — San Francisco is exploring the potential of waves and the tides to generate clean power. Some studies have shown that with our powerful tides under the Golden Gate and with the mighty waves of the Pacific, San Francisco could be an ideal location to harness a new hydropower — that of the sea. Additionally, the City is beginning to explore the possibility that geothermal energies – locally and in other parts of California – could provide the City with reliable, renewable energy from the crust of the earth itself.

A city powered entirely by clean, renewable energies is not a fantasy. It will someday become a reality for San Francisco. The clean energy projects we've already completed or initiated are inevitably moving us towards that vision. Achieving the benchmarks set out by our Climate Action Plan are ambitious, certainly. But they also don't go far enough for the long term. Reducing our "carbon footprint," improving our air quality here at home and preventing the worst impacts of climate change require a collective commitment from cities around the world as well state and federal governments in this nation. San Francisco has stepped up to embrace its responsibility to develop and promote cleaner energy alternatives. For us, there can be no other choice.

Grapevine on the Web
Read current and past stories from the Visitacion Valley Grapevine at www.visvalleygrapevine.com

Smoking in Movies Linked to Young Adult Behavior

New study findings show that exposure to on-screen smoking in movies has a strong correlation with beginning to smoke or becoming established smokers among young adults 18-25, a critical age group for lifelong smoking behavior.

The research was conducted by a team from the University of California, San Francisco. Previous studies from around the world found that viewing on-screen smoking was linked to recruitment of adolescent smokers, but this is the first time that smoking among young adults has been associated with their exposure to smoking scenes on screen, said senior author Stanton Glantz, PhD, professor of medicine and director of the UCSF Center for Tobacco Control Research and Education.

"Ages 18 to 25 are critical years, when one-third of smokers start and others who began smoking as adolescents either stop smoking or become regular smokers," he said.

The research team found a "dose-response relationship" between exposure to smoking on screen and the likelihood of having smoked in the past 30 days in a sample of 1,528 young adults. The study findings are published in the November issue of the "American Journal of Preventive Medicine."

Young adults who saw the most smoking on screen have a 77 percent greater chance of having smoked at least once in the last 30 days (a measure of smoking initiation) and an 86 percent increased chance of being regular established smokers compared to young adults who saw little smoking in movies, the study showed. "Established smokers" are defined as those who have smoked 100 cigarettes or more and currently smoke.

Participants in the study reflected a cross-section of the U.S. population for the age group, and they took part through a web-based survey. Of the study group, 24.7 were smokers, comparable to estimates of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention of 25.3 percent for this population. The survey format was similar to the studies of adolescents, with participants receiving a list of 60 motion pictures, selected at random from the top grossing 500 movies released during 2000-2004, and asked to identify the movies they had seen. Each participant was then placed in a quartile of exposure based on the sum of tobacco occurrences that had been viewed.

The results showed a direct effect between exposure and current smoking. The researchers found that two factors mediated the association between exposure to film smoking and established smoking: positive expectations about smoking and exposure to friends and relatives who smoke.

"The main effect is to recruit new smokers from among young adults," Glantz noted. "Movies encourage them to experiment, and once they start experimenting with cigarettes other factors take hold. Movies create the expectation that smoking will turn out okay."

The effect demonstrated in young adults is smaller than effects shown in adolescents, but comparable to other environmental risk factors for smoking initiation in young adults, he emphasized.

For example, in the 18-25 age group, researchers estimate that exposure to tobacco promotions in clubs and bars and at campus social events boosts the odds of 30-day smoking by a factor of 1.75, close to the risk of 1.77 posed by exposure to smoking on screen.

It has been estimated that awarding R-ratings on future tobacco imagery to eliminate smoking from youth-rated films would reduce teen exposure to the imagery by half and prevent about 200,000 youth a year from starting to smoke, Glantz said. The results of the new study indicate that young adults are also being recruited to smoke through their exposure to movie smoking, and a substantial reduction in smoking content has the potential to avert even more tobacco deaths, he added.

The research was funded by the National Cancer Institute.

UCSF study co-authors are Anna Song, PhD, a postdoctoral fellow in the Center for Tobacco Control Research and Education; Pamela Ling, MD, assistant professor of medicine, and Torsten B. Neilands, PhD, of the Center for AIDS Research.

UCSF is a leading university that advances health worldwide by conducting advanced biomedical research, educating graduate students in the life sciences and health professions, and providing complex patient care.

Busy Legislative Year in the 12th District

by Assemblywoman Fiona Ma

I joined the Assembly a little less than a year ago—making a promise to use my experience to make a difference in the lives of residents in the 12th District. With the first year of the 2007-2008 legislative session now coming to an end, I am pleased to report that my experience helped to accomplish a number of key legislative victories. These accomplishments included everything from eliminating toxins in toys to providing Mayor Gavin Newsom with an innovative tool to speed up Muni to putting high speed trains back on track.

Last year, as a member of the Board of Supervisors, I was able to pass the nation's first law banning the use of hormone disrupting chemicals known as phthalates, and despite overwhelming roadblocks, the Governor signed Assembly Bill 1108 to make California the first state in the Country to ban toxic toys. I knew from my experience at the Board that this was going to be a tough fight, and my expectation was definitely fulfilled. To me removing phthalates from toys that babies suck on is common sense. Numerous studies show that phthalates interfere with the hormone system causing liver damage, reproductive defects, and the early on set of puberty, which is a risk factor for breast cancer. The European Union and 14 other countries already have bans in place and 4 of the 6 phthalates in the bill are listed on California's Proposition 65 list as known carcinogens and reproductive toxins. The international bans on the chemicals make California and the rest of the United States a dumping ground for toxic toys, and that's why this bill was so important.

The biggest hurdle in getting the bill signed was not the science; rather it was the power of the chemical industry. Despite heavy lobbying in the Legislature and numerous ads in newspapers and on television urging the Governor to veto the bill, the legislation was signed into law. As a result of the new law, states across the country are introducing legislation to follow California's lead. This nation-wide effort sends a clear message to the federal Consumer Product Safety Commission that if the Bush Administration won't protect our kids, then states will.

Although this was a big victory, there were many other accomplishments that I believe will improve the quality of life of San Francisco residents. Another piece of legislation that I authored, AB 101, provides Mayor Newsom with the ability to place cameras on the front of busses to ticket people who park in bus lanes. When I was a member of the Board, I heard from many constituents about their frustrations with Muni. Although serving in the Legislature does not provide as many opportunities to tackle this issue, this bill was one way to help move buses around the city in a more timely fashion and provide a deterrent for drivers who otherwise may be inclined to senselessly block a bus from moving to its next stop.

Another top transportation priority for me when I came into the Assembly was to bring high speed trains to California so San Francisco residents no longer have to worry about driving to the airport, waiting in long lines, and stressing over whether their flight will be on time. Despite the Governor's proposal to only include a little over $1 million for the High Speed Rail Authority (the agency responsible for developing the project); with the help of the Authority's Chairman, Judge Quentin Kopp, and other legislators, I was able to secure $20 million for the project—keeping it on track. I am hopeful that a 2 ½ hour train ride from the Transbay Terminal to downtown LA or Disneyland will be a reality in the not too distant future

As a Certified Public Accountant (CPA), it was imperative to me that I use my experience to help the state's bottom line. AB 361, which the Governor signed into law earlier in the year, ensures that everyone, including the wealthiest, pay their California tax obligation. The Franchise Tax Board (FTB) was having trouble finding the proper administrator of descendents' estates and asked me to carry legislation to make sure that they are notified by a new estate administrator. The FTB predicts that the bill will result in $15 million in additional revenue over the next three fiscal years, which will help fund the state's critical public safety, education, and transportation priorities.

My CPA skills also came in handy with another piece of legislation — AB 402, which was also signed into law by the Governor. This bill ensures that foster children are treated fairly in real estate transactions. Under current law, foster children are treated as strangers when a foster parent transfers property. This bill eliminates the inequity by providing foster children the same right during the inheritance process.

In addition to these achievements, there were a number of other bills signed into law and other accomplishments including a written commitment from CalTRANs that they will get started on putting countdown signals at some of the most dangerous intersections on 19th Avenue and Park Presidio Boulevard. The Legislature will reconvene in January, and I encourage everyone to contact my office with your ideas to make next year another success.

Joe Leland around the neighborhood

***The 56 Rutland:** Have you noticed something different about the 56 Rutland? The less-then at capacity ridership community bus route has a new hybrid bus circulating throughout the neighborhood. What is a Hybrid bus? According the Muni's website: "The Muni hybrid buses are essentially electric buses just like Muni's electric trolley buses. Rather than get their electricity from overhead wires, they use a small diesel engine (5.9 liter Cummins ISB found in pick-up trucks) to turn a generator that, together with traction batteries, supply the necessary electrical energy to move the bus through the streets of San Francisco." Several diesel only lines in The City have been replaced with variations of the new hybrids. Not only will these new buses reduce diesel usage and curb emissions they have certain design features that result in a more enjoyable ride.

- The hybrid low floor design (no steps) makes for easier access, shorter loading and debarking times for passengers and operators.
- Hybrids are smoother, provide quicker acceleration, and create less engine noise - a benefit for passengers and bus operators.
- Passengers will notice a more spacious and accessible interior.
- It is a seamless transition for the driver to operate a conventional diesel bus and a hybrid bus.

For more information regarding the 56 Rutland or hybrid buses, visit Muni's website at: http://www.sfmta.com/cms/mfleet/hybrids.htm

***Step on a Crack Lately?:** How long does it take for The City to respond to obvious and numerously reported public street deficiencies? Maybe it depends on the neighborhood, but in Visitacion Valley it's been over a year in at least two cases. Several citizens have reported a hole in the sidewalk at the northwest corner of San Bruno Ave and Arleta Ave. This hole resulted from the removal of a telephone pole. For some unknown reason, The City did not take the time to patch the spot. The hole remains with the occasional orange safety cone covering it. Not patching might not such a bad thing given that the second deficiency is a "temporary" patch job at the northwest corner of Bayshore Blvd and Leland Ave. The asphalt repair of a section of the sidewalk resulted from an action similar to the above. The City removed an old fire/police call box but did not fully repair the sidewalk. Over the past year, the asphalt has become so compacted that it is now a tripping hazard. Both of these issues have been reported several times to DPW and or 311, The City's fix-it hot line. One wonders how many calls it would take to resolve a cracked sidewalk at the corner of Pacific Avenue and Presidio Avenue??

***Got Email?:** Join the Visitacion Valley Yahoo Group and stay informed about all things Visitacion Valley. The thing about it is that it's 100% free! Go to: http://groups.yahoo.com/group/Valley_Eye (There is an underscore_between Valley and Eye!)

Private Tax Collection Benefits Public

by Dan Drummond

There may be good news for those who think they are paying more than their fair share of federal taxes. Following the example of several local and state agencies, the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) has begun to partner with the private sector to recover delinquent income taxes. So far, the IRS Private Debt Collection Program is exceeding expectations, collecting more than $24 million in its first year. Once fully implemented, it's expected to collect $2.2 billion over 10 years.

Some critics in Congress, however, have called for an end to the program before it's even had a chance to get off the ground.

The program's opponents have ignored the benefits it brings to the average American taxpayer. Taxpayers are being treated professionally, information security has proven to be on the same level if not superior to that of federal agencies, and the IRS is getting much-needed help to close the tax gap.

An independent third party measured the customer-service ratings of the program and found it to be outstanding. The two private companies participating in this public-private partnership also received exemplary customer-service ratings, scoring at or above 96 percent for taxpayer satisfaction, professionalism, accuracy and timeliness.

With regard to taxpayer privacy, the most sensitive and detailed information never leaves the IRS. In fact, private collection agencies working with the IRS are only given access to basic taxpayer information and the amount of delinquent tax owed-and only for those cases where the taxpayer has already admitted owing back taxes.

Additionally, a report by the Treasury Inspector General for Tax Administration found that a strong system of computer and physical security controls was in place.

Without a program to help close the tax gap, Americans can expect to see more of their hard-earned money heading back to the feds. It's something to think about as Congress votes on restricting or repealing the IRS Private Debt Collection program this fall. Taxpayers can voice support of the program by calling or writing Congress.

To let your representative know your opinion on this or other issues, visit www.congress.org. *NAPS*

Educational Event At S.F. City College

City College of San Francisco (CCSF), San Francisco State University (SFSU) and the CCSF Calworks Department will join forces on Thursday, Nov. 8 for *Families Reaching Educational Empowerment*, a free event from 1 to 4 p.m. at CCSF, 50 Phelan Ave.in the lower level of the Student Union.

The event will feature: performances, guest speakers, free food and prize giveaways. Information will be provided on finding childcare, applying to CCSF, transfering to SFSU and obtaining financial aid.

More information is available by caling (415) 405-0410 or 239-3109.

Visitacion Valley Child Care Food Program

Visitacion Valley Community Center announces sponsorship of the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP). Meals will be available at no separate charge to children enrolled at all Visitacion Valley Community Center's Children's Programs centers. "The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, gender, religion, age, disability, or political beliefs. Persons with disabilities who require alternate means of communication for program information (Braille, large print, audio tape, etc.) should contact USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (Voice and TDD)."

"To file a discrimination complaint, write USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, Room 326-W, Whitten Building, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, D.C. 29250-9410 or call (202) 720-5964 (Voice and TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer."

For information regarding enrollment, contact: Visitacion Valley Community Center, 50 Raymond Avenue, San Francisco, CA. 94134; (415) 467-6400.

More Than 2,000 Clients Served by City's Homeless Program

Mayor Newsom announced Oct. 4 that his Care Not Cash program has reached a significant milestone of housing over 2000 formerly homeless individuals.

The successful homeless program and designated national best practice, now referred to as "Housing First," continues to prove itself as an effective method to addressing homelessness in San Francisco.

Since its implementation in May of 2004, 2,062 formerly homeless individuals have been placed into permanent supportive housing with "wrap around services" including treatment and case management also being provided on-site.

Mayor Newsom's commitment to getting people housed and giving them the support they need toward self-sufficiency and to get their lives back on track has quickly become a model as the right approach to ending chronic homelessness on both the local and state levels.

"Soup kitchens solve hunger, shelters solve sleep, permanent supportive housing solves homelessness," said Newsom. "Permanent supportive housing is the cornerstone of our strategy to end homelessness. Although there is much more to be done, with the success of Care Not Cash, San Francisco has gone from having among the most pervasive homeless problems in the country to a city that is a national model in its effort to end chronic homelessness."

Early on, critics of the initiative argued that the "care was not there" and that the City was simply going to cut welfare for its poorest residents while warehousing the homeless in overcrowded shelters. However, the numbers tend to support that Care Not Cash is working. Since implementation in May 2004, the number of homeless individuals receiving cash welfare from the City has decreased from 2,497 to 361, an 86 percent decline. In addition, over 97 percent of the individuals who have been housed via the program remain housed or have moved to other stable housing situations.

This program has contributed to the City-wide reduction in homelessness. This year's homeless count identified a 38 percent decline in homeless individuals living on the streets since late-2002.

Significant progress continues in addressing homelessness in San Francisco with many of the Care Not Cash sites being equipped with kitchens or pantries that afford residents the ability to prepare their own food as well as offer greater access to more nutritional food options. These pantries help reduce the resident's reliance on fast food chains or local convenience markets that offer prepared foods at a premium cost.

Plans are also in the works to establish a One Stop Employment Centers to provide job training and placement assistance for the recently housed. In addition, the Mayor's budget includes funding to implement a supervised employment program modeled after New York's Doe Fund "Ready Willing and Able" Initiative.

Mayor Newsom notes that homelessness is a complex problem that may take more than three and a half years to fully address. However, for the first time in the city's history, programs like Care Not Cash continue to reflect the City's commitment to providing real solutions to the crisis of homelessness in San Francisco.

Two New Programs Will Help Both Teachers and Police Officers in San Francisco with Downpayment Assistance

In an effort to expand home-ownership opportunities for low and moderate income households, Mayor Gavin Newsom on Oct. 19 announced two new programs to address the need for downpayment assistance for credentialed public school teachers and police officers working in the San Francisco Police Department (SFPD).

"When young, middle-class families with children flee for the suburbs, a city is robbed of its heart and soul," said Mayor Newsom. "We must do whatever we can to retain those that give the most to our community - our children's teachers and the police who keep us safe. These programs are an excellent reminder that we need to keep San Francisco affordable for all who wish to live here."

The Mayor's Office of Housing (MOH) worked in coordination with the Department of Children, Youth and Families, and the San Francisco Unified School District to create the Teacher Next Door program, a downpayment assistance program for teachers.

"This is a meaningful step forward in our efforts to stabilize our workforce of teachers," said. Dennis Kelly, president of United Educators of San Francisco (UESF). "Educators who are housed in the community in which they teach are more likely to stay in their jobs and gain the experience necessary to better the school district."

Loans of $20,000 will be made available to teachers to purchase their first home. The loan will require no payments, and will accrue no interest. If the teacher remains employed with the district for five years, the City will begin to forgive the loan on year six at a rate of 20 percent per year, so that by year 10 the entire loan is forgiven.

Additionally, through the Police in the Community program, MOH will make loans of $20,000 to police officers in good standing to purchase their first home in San Francisco. The loans accrue no interest nor require monthly payments.

The loans are forgiven five years after they are made, if the officer remains in the service of the City, or if the officer is permanently disabled or killed in the line of duty at any point during those five years. This program has been funded through the collective bargaining agreement negotiated between City's Department of Human Resources and the Police Officer's Association this year.

"Recruiting and retaining police officers is a national crisis," said Gary Delagnes, president of the Police Officers Association (POA). "This local program gives our officers an attractive opportunity to make San Francisco an affordable place in which to live in or relocate to."

Both programs require that the borrowers live in the homes they purchase and remain employed with the SFUSD or the SFPD while the loan is active, or be required to pay it back to the City. Both programs also require that this loan be used in the purchase of the borrower's first home in San Francisco.

Credit Scores Determines Rates for Credit and Insurance

Ever wonder how a lender decides whether to grant you credit? Creditors use credit scoring systems to determine if you'd be a good risk for credit cards, auto loans, mortgages and insurance. A higher credit score means you are likely to be a good risk, which, in turn, means you will be more likely to get credit or insurance-or pay less for it.

The Federal Trade Commission (FTC), the nation's consumer protection agency, wants you to know how credit scoring works.

What Is Credit Scoring?

Credit scoring is a system creditors use to help determine whether to give you credit. It also may be used to help decide the terms you are offered or the rate you will pay for the loan.

Information about you and your credit experiences, like your bill-paying history, the number and type of accounts you have, whether you pay your bills by the date they're due, collection actions, outstanding debt and the age of your accounts, is collected from your credit report. Using a statistical program, creditors compare this information to the loan repayment history of consumers with similar profiles.

How to Improve Your Score

Credit scoring systems are complex and vary among creditors or insurance companies and for different types of credit or insurance. If one factor changes, your score may change; but improvement generally depends on how that factor relates to others the system considers.

Nevertheless, scoring models usually consider the following types of information in your credit report to compute your credit score:

*Have you paid your bills on time? You can count on payment history to be a significant factor.

*Are you maxed out? Many scoring systems evaluate the amount of debt you have compared to your credit limits.

*How long have you had credit? Generally, scoring systems consider the length of your credit track record.

*Have you applied for new credit lately? Many scoring systems consider whether you have applied for credit recently by looking at "inquiries" on your credit report. Applying for too many new accounts in the recent past could have a negative effect on your score.

*How many credit accounts do you have and what kinds of accounts are they? Although it is generally considered a plus to have established credit accounts, too many credit card accounts may have a negative effect on your score.

To learn more, visit www.ftc.gov or call (877) FTC-HELP. *NAPS*

Man Shot Outside Store

A customer leaving the Little Village Market on Oct. 21 was shot around 7 p.m. just outside the store at Sunnydale Avenue and Hahn Street, according to a police report..

The man said he had heard shots just prior to being hit with a bullet. He was rushed to San Francisco General Hospital.

Visitacion Valley History Project

Answer to the Picture

What's going on in the picture? (See the October Grapevine) Three helpful gentlemen help the lady onto the bulldozer at the May 1952, El Dorado School groundbreaking celebration. El Dorado was first built as a "home school" for kindergarten through third grade students. Later the school was enlarged to serve as an elementary school through the fifth grade.

Back in the 1950s and early 1960s, the school's community room was used for the meetings of the now long-gone Reis and Paul Tract Improvement Association. At one memorable meeting there were two items on the agenda. Of paramount importance to the Association was the School District's proposal to sell a piece of land on a nearby hillside to the Recreation and Parks Department as an addition to McLaren Park. The District did not see any foreseeable use for the property. The Association, which had lobbied to get El Dorado built, protested that the neighborhood school population was on the rise and insisted that the land be preserved for future school needs. That site is where Visitacion Valley Middle School now stands.

Attractive Drawings

The second item on the agenda received only cursory attention. Eichler Development Corporation representatives had some attractive drawings of a proposed apartment building development on land at Sunnydale and Schwerin streets. Depicted were eight four-story apartment buildings with generous green space separating them. No one raised serious objections, few questions were asked. The neighbors present were intent on following and fighting for the school land issue. And the rest is…more history.

Circle of Elders Video

To arrange for a showing of the Circle Of Elders video, or to share your memories, pictures and memorabilia of life in the Valley, phone: Edie Epps at (415) 467-1236, Betty Parshall at (415) 467-7423, or you can also email visvalleyhistory@hotmail.com

Oral History Excerpts

"OK, stores on Leland Avenue when I was growing up? I was born in 1934. Rossi's Pharmacy was on Leland, just down the block from Visitacion Valley playground. That's where my sister was hurt…kids were playing ball and my sister was playing in the sandbox when a ball hit her. It crushed her skull, she had a big scar all of her life and a soft spot in her skull from this. But anyway, Rossi was the one who said to my mother 'you have to get her to a doctor.'

"I remember Romer's Drugstore. My sister worked in the soda fountain there. And the library, I remember the library. Do you know there used to be a phone booth in that library? The Purity Market was right next to the bank, and the corner bar at Leland and Bayshore was always there.

"The Bayshore Theater, I remember the newsreels from the war, we were always winning and it was great. That was where we got our news. My mother would give us a nickel to get in and two cents for some kind of candy. My older brothers came home from the war and they had all this foreign money and I would line it up to match the size of nickels and dimes. I'd go to the Bayshore and scam the candy machines with the foreign coins, and then one time there was a sign on the machine 'out of order.' So I left before the movie was over. I thought it was written all over my face, 'I did it!' "

-Jacqueline Bauman Oral History

Mary Leotta was born in 1906. Her father worked for Southern Pacific Railroad as a carpenter and the family moved frequently as he was reassigned. They had lived in San Luis Obispo, San Fernando, Los Angeles, San Luis again, back to L.A., Richmond, and finally San Francisco. They located in Visitacion Valley in 1917. Mary's mother decided she'd had enough of moving, went to Realtor Charles Lewis and made a down payment on a $1,000 house at 442 Leland, not telling her husband until it was a done deal. Not long after, he was assigned to work in Oakland, so he commuted by car to the Ferry Building and took the ferry across the bay to the job.

A favorite shopping assignment for Mary was being sent to the Valley Dry Goods store on Leland. If her mother needed two items, such as needles and thread, Mary would go in and out of the store two times, since for each visit she would receive a piece of candy Dougherty's grocery store was located at Leland and Rutland. At Cora and Leland was an old hotel building, deserted and falling into ruin. She and her friends thought it was haunted.

She recalled George Gibson delivering groceries around the neighborhood, and Mr. Amola who was the local rags, bottles and sacks collector who drove around calling out for the desired stock. Every week or so someone from Knudson's farm, located in the area where Sunnydale and Visitacion streets meet McLaren Park, would deliver a bucket of eggs to the Leotta home.

Mary married Bill Schwartz in 1929 and they built a home on Leland. Mary gave piano lessons to dozens and dozens of Valley children. She gave her first annual piano recital in her home with four young students. But as the children played their pieces she was aware that the parents and friends were whispering among themselves, excited and not paying attention to the music. Finally Mary asked someone "What's wrong? Why is everyone ignoring the recital?" Her recital had been pre-empted by a major event that had the entire world enthralled — the birth of the Dionne quintuplets!

-Mary Leotta Schwartz Oral History

Laundry Evolves with Time, But Old Favorites Still Seem to Stick Around

When it comes to laundry, many of us might take for granted today's modern technological advances. But what did people do before laundry innovations such as washers and dryers? Take a look at this laundry line (laundry time line, that is):

Ancient History: It may be surprising to learn that doing laundry dates back to as early as 2500 B.C., when clothing was washed using tools like rocks, sticks and stones. Laundry was especially significant in ancient cities such as Pompeii, Italy, where fresco paintings still visible today depict workers in public laundries cleaning clothes of the wealthy.

Late 1700s: The arduous task of doing laundry got one of its biggest innovations in 1797: the scrub board. Mountains of clothes had to be scrubbed in many gallons of water, a chore that required great upper-body strength. While not ideal by today's standards, the scrub board revolutionized the laundering process.

Mid 1800s: This time period saw the first appearance of washing machines, which ran on the elbow grease of the person turning the crank to spin the clothes. It was also at this time, before trucks and interstate highways, that 20-mule teams delivered an ingredient key to keeping clothes clean-borax. The natural mineral borax was trusted to clean clothes and stains, and even deodorize.

1900s: It was not until the 1900s that automatic washing machines and dryers really started making their way into homes. And big business took note. During the past 100 years, there have been more than 200 washing machine makers and probably just as many different types of detergents. Companies competed to come out with the latest and greatest innovations and launderers everywhere rejoiced.

21st Century: During this century, we've witnessed another laundry revolution in eco-friendly washers, dryers and cleaning products. All around the United States, launderers are pairing modern convenience with environmental consciousness.

While these technological advances have made the task of doing laundry less backbreaking, old standbys like borax for laundry are still relied on and trusted. *NAPS*

EarthTalk

Ecological Balances

Dear EarthTalk: Is it true that biologists want to bring African and Asian wildlife to roam free in North America to help restore natural ecological balances here? If so, what are the implications for biodiversity and our environment? -Naturegirl, Victorville, CA

A group of biologists and environmentalists is advocating just such a plan to help save wild animals from extinction and restore the ecological vitality of North America's wildlands to a state that existed before humans set foot on the continent some 13,000 years ago. The concept—whereby large mammals are reintroduced across the continent to fill ecological gaps abandoned eons ago—was first posited publicly two decades ago by bio-geographer Paul Martin of the University of Arizona.

In arguing for the introduction of lions, elephants, camels and other large mammals from around the world to North America, Martin cites the important role that so-called "megafauna" play in maintaining overall ecosystem integrity, including keeping predator/prey populations in balance and invasive species in check. Some conservationists like the idea because hosting such large mammals would require a large amount of preserved, natural open space for habitat. Others see it as a terrible idea, citing human safety issues and the difficulty such exotic animals might have adapting to such different landscapes and ecosystems.

Building on Martin's ideas, a group of conservationists came together in 2004 to form the New Mexico-based Rewilding Institute. Members of the group co-authored a 2005 commentary in the scientific journal Nature, in which they suggested starting with a series of controlled experiments on fenced private land, as was previously done with condors and bison and led to population rebounds. Some of the first species suggested for North American introduction include giant tortoises, wild horses, camels and elephants. If such experiments pan out, cheetahs and lions could be next.

The group also wants to restore native species such as mountain lions and wolves, both of which roamed North America in large numbers before European settlers first arrived in the 1600s. The group argues that the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has approached recovery of these animals "in a haphazard and minimalist way."

"Obviously, gaining public acceptance is going to be a huge issue, especially when you talk about reintroducing predators," says Josh Donlan, Cornell biologist and lead author on the Nature article. "There are going to have to be some major attitude shifts [including] realizing predation is a natural role, and that people are going to have to take precautions."

Donlan adds that "rewilding" could be a win-win situation as far as people and wildlife are concerned. Portions of the Great Plains, for instance, could see an increase in tourism dollars as people flock there to see the wildlife, while the animals themselves—many of which are seriously endangered in their native lands—can take advantage of increased habitat and a decreased threat of extinction.

Dear EarthTalk: Is removing the salt from ocean water (desalination) a feasible fix for the world's shortage of fresh water? -Nora Jones, Sydney, New South Wales, Australia

Fresh water scarcity is already posing major problems for more than a billion people around the world, mostly in arid developing countries. The World Health Organization predicts that by mid-century, four billion of us—nearly two-thirds of the world's present population—will face severe fresh water shortages.

With human population expected to balloon another 50 percent by 2050, resource managers are increasingly looking to alternative scenarios for quenching the world's growing thirst. Desalination—a process whereby highly pressurized ocean water is pushed through tiny membrane filters and distilled into drinking water—is being held forth by some as one of the most promising solutions to the problem. But critics point out it doesn't come without its economic and environmental costs.

According to the non-profit Food & Water Watch, desalinated ocean water is the most expensive form of fresh water out there, given the infrastructure costs of collecting, distilling and distributing it. The group reports that, in the U.S., desalinated water costs at least five times as much to harvest as other sources of fresh water. Similar high costs are a big hurdle to desalination efforts in poor countries as well, where limited funds are already stretched too thin.

On the environmental front, widespread desalination could take a heavy toll on ocean biodiversity. "Ocean water is filled with living creatures, and most of them are lost in the process of desalination," says Sylvia Earle, one of the world's foremost marine biologists and a National Geographic Explorer-in-Residence. "Most are microbial, but intake pipes to desalination plants also take up the larvae of a cross section of life in the sea, as well as some fairly large organisms…part of the hidden cost of doing business," she says.

Earle also points out that the very salty residue left over from desalination must be disposed of properly, not just dumped back into the sea. Food & Water Watch concurs, warning that coastal areas already battered by urban and agricultural run-off can ill afford to absorb tons of concentrated saltwater sludge.

Food and Water Watch advocates instead for better fresh water management practices. "Ocean desalination hides the growing water supply problem instead of focusing on water management and lowering water usage," the group reports, citing a recent study which found that California can meet its water needs for the next 30 years by implementing cost-effective urban water conservation. Desalination is "an expensive, speculative supply option that will drain resources away from more practical solutions," the group says.

Despite such arguments, the practice is becoming more common. Ted Levin of the Natural Resources Defense Council says that more than 12,000 desalination plants already supply fresh water in 120 nations, mostly in the Middle East and Caribbean. And analysts expect the worldwide market for desalinated water to grow significantly over the coming decades. Environmental advocates may just have to settle for pushing to "green" the practice as much as possible in lieu of eliminating it altogether.

Got an environmental question? Send it to: EarthTalk, c/o E/The Environmental Magazine, P.O. Box 5098, Westport, CT 06881; submit your question at: www.emagazine.com/earthtalk.html; or e-mail us at: earthtalk@emagazine.com.

Gas Prices in Northern CalifoniaMove Over $3 a Gallon Again

The price of gas has risen above $3 per gallon in most communities in Northern California where AAA tracks fuel costs.

According to a new report from AAA of Northern California, which tracks fuel costs as a service to consumers, the statewide average cost for a gallon of regular unleaded gas on Oct. 16 was $3.07. That's an increase of 20 cents per gallon since the last AAA gas price report on Sept. 11.

"The situation for consumers is not very encouraging right now," said Sean Corney, spokesperson for AAA of Northern California. "Remember the sticker shock you had at the gas pump when prices skyrocketed after Hurricane Katrina? Statewide, we're paying similar prices now."

Analysts point to the continuing high price of oil as the primary reason behind the unseasonable rise in gasoline prices. The price for a barrel of oil has been particularly volatile this year, jumping more than $30 since February and currently hovering the mid-$80 range. The unfortunate reality is that unless oil prices reverse course and move substantially lower from where they are today, American motorists will likely continue to see gas prices trend higher.

Gasoline supply and production are at the low end of the range considered normal for this time of year, according to the California Energy Commission. Output from the state's gasoline refineries has been down due to electrical problems reported recently at some facilities. Even though inventories of gasoline are low, the available supply of gas in the state has remained relatively consistent over the last few weeks. Imported gasoline may be making up for low levels of refinery production.

The most expensive average gas price in the California communities where AAA monitors fuel costs was in Tahoe City, where regular unleaded sold for $3.29 per gallon. The lowest price among Northern California cities tracked by AAA was in Chico, where gas cost an average of $2.97 per gallon. Throughout Northern California, the average price was $3.09, an increase of 21 cents per gallon since the last AAA gas price report. In the Bay Area, the average price was $3.19, up 16 cents from the previous month. The statewide average record high price of $3.49 was set on May 9.

The national average price for gas was $2.76, down 5 cents from the previous survey. The national average price is 31 cents a gallon less than the California statewide average price.

The least expensive gasoline in the country was found in Monmouth, N.J., Kansas City, Mo. and Saint Louis, Mo., where regular unleaded cost an average of $2.49.

SFMTA Releases Central Subway Draft Environmental Document

On Oct. 17, the San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency (SFMTA) released the Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement/Environmental Impact Report (Draft SEIS/SEIR) prepared for the Central Subway project for public review. The review period will last until Dec. 10.

Muni's Central Subway, scheduled to open in 2016, will provide light rail service from 4th and King Streets to Chinatown, operating as an extension of the T-Third light rail line.

The Draft SEI5/5EIR describes the environmental, community and transportation impacts of the three alternatives being considered for the Central 5ubway and identifies actions to minimize significant impacts.

Decision makers will use the information in the document, along with public comment, to determine the project's alignment, station locations and other design elements.

The report is available for public review at the San Francisco Planning Department Information Center at 1660 Mission Street, 1st Floor, San Francisco, CA 94103. It is also available for review at select city libraries, and on the Central Subway project website at www.sfmta.com/central.

A public hearing on the Draft 5EIS/SEIR has been scheduled by the San Francisco Planning Commission for 1:30 p.m., Thursday, November 15 at City Hall, Room 400.

Additional information on the project is available on the hotline at (415) 701-4371, on the website at www.sfmta.com/central, or by email at central. subway@sfmta.com.

First-Ever Series of Helpful Advice Guides

Better Business Bureau (BBB) announced Oct. 12 the launch of the first-ever line of "how-to" books to carry the trusted Better Business Bureau name. BBB Insiders' Guides are easy to follow – packed with checklists, worksheets, and "Quick Tips" – and provide the same reliable advice the public has come to expect from BBB for nearly a century.

For the first three books of the series, BBB experts provide information, advice, and insights based on real-world experience on how to buy a home, launch an eBay business, or open your own franchise. BBB Insiders' Guides – published by The Planning Shop – de-mystify often intimidating topics and provide readers with step-by-step guidance.

"BBB has been a leader in consumer education for decades and this book series builds on our tradition of providing trustworthy and reliable advice that people can use in everyday life," said Steve Cole, president and CEO of the Council of Better Business Bureaus. "Each book is designed to help consumers and entrepreneurs make informed choices and feel confident in making the many important financial decisions they face."

The first three BBB Insiders' Guides are titled:

Better Business Bureau Buying a Home: Insider's Guide to Success: Purchasing a home is the single biggest investment most people make in their lives. This thorough guide helps readers successfully navigate the world of agents, home selection, contracts, inspections, mortgages, as well as timing a home purchase to take advantage of down markets and a special section on purchasing investment property.

Better Business Bureau Starting an eBay Business: Insider's Guide to Success: Every day, more than 36 million items are up for auction on eBay. This book provides step-by-step guidance on all aspects of starting, running and growing an eBay business. Whether a reader wants a spare-time business, to develop an online enterprise, or to add an eBay presence to an existing company, this thorough guide provides entrepreneurs with the keys to success in the eBay world.

Better Business Bureau Buying a Franchise: Insider's Guide to Success: Fifty percent of all retail sales come from franchises. Franchising is booming, but buying a franchise is a major investment, often exceeding more than $100,000. This guide helps people investigate and choose the right franchise, negotiate the contract process, understand all fees and start-up costs, and learn about financing options, as well as proven techniques for running a successful franchise.

BBB Insiders' Guides are part of a larger, national campaign by BBB to enhance consumer trust in the marketplace. Consumers are encouraged to always "Start With Trustsm" and start with BBB for objective advice on marketplace issues. "BBB Insiders' Guides" serve, not only as reliable advice to consumers, but also encourage entrepreneurs to meet the high standards of BBB for marketplace trust issues.

Events in November at Valley Branch Library

Following are events in November at the Visitacion Valley Branch Library:

*Nov. 6, 13, 20 and 27, Tuesday: *Mother Goose on the Loose* with stories songs and rhythms for young children ages birth-3 at 11:30 a.m.

*Nov. 6, 20 and 27, Tuesday: Preschool Storytime for ages 3-5 at 10:30 a.m.

*Nov. 13, Tuesday: Yoga with Mariana Doig at 10:30 a.m. Children ages 3-5 will learn simple yoga postures. 5pace is limited. Call (415) 355-2848 for reservations.

*Nov. 14, Wednesday: Preschool Videos for ages 3-5 at 10:30 a.m.

Book Review

Breaking the News for More Than160 Years

The stories behind some of the great stories in history, and the daring and dedication of the reporters who told them, are recounted in *Breaking News: How The Associated Press Has Covered War, Peace, and Everything Else* (Princeton Architectural Press, $35).

It's an edge-of-the-seat account about those AP reporters who often risked their very lives to gather and report the news, revealing their insights and personal perspectives, along with on-the-spot photographs that provide a breathtaking front-row seat as history was being made.

Did you know that:

*In 1849, Daniel H. Craig was hired to establish the agency's first office outside the U.S., in Halifax, Nova Scotia, where newspapers on ships from Europe could be obtained before they reached Boston. As AP's first foreign correspondent, Craig delivered exclusive news of an attempt to assassinate Queen Victoria in London that year, and it was relayed to AP in New York by ship, horseback and telegraph.

*On the road to Burma in 1944, AP correspondent Frank Martin, observing a tribe of Naga headhunters singing "Old MacDonald Had a Farm" as the skeletons of 30,000 refugees lay nearby, reported that the tribe had learned the song from a missionary they had later beheaded.

*After Martin Luther King Jr. was assassinated in Memphis in 1968, AP reporter Kathryn Johnson was welcomed into the King household in Atlanta, sometimes cooking bacon and eggs for mourners and hungry children, but also filing stories from the Kings' home.

*As the last Americans fled Vietnam in 1975, AP Saigon bureau chief George Esper served Coca-Cola and stale pound cake to two North Vietnamese soldiers before calmly writing the bulletin announcing the fall of Saigon.

These are just a few of the fascinating facts in this gripping tour through 160 years of national and international news, written by Pulitzer Prize-winning reporters and punctuated by iconic, unforgettable photos. With a foreword penned by the late David Halberstam, the book can make a terrific present for any lover of news, sports, history or all of the above.

Movie Guide Helps Fans Get the Picture

Fans of all kinds of motion pictures can breathe a sigh of relief because the latest version of a trusted source of movie information is now available.

The book - *Leonard Maltin's 2008 Movie Guide* - has more than 17,000 descriptions of films, plus updated indexes of leading performers, official motion picture code ratings, reviews of little-known sleepers, foreign films, rarities, camp classics and more.

The book has a list of mail-order and online sources of movies and a glossary of wide-screen terms. Maltin also includes a list of 50 films you might have missed that he thinks movie fans should see.

Leonard Maltin is one of the country's most recognized and respected film critics and historians. Now in his 26th season with television's "Entertainment Tonight," he is the author of numerous books and articles. Maltin teaches in the School of Cinematic Arts at the University of Southern California. The New York Post has called his movie guide "indispensable." NAPS

Great Online Study Aids At CliffNotes Website

For just about any subject, students can go online 24/7 and find a trusted brand of study guides with a particular stripe-a black-and-yellow stripe, to be precise.

In addition to the traditional "literature notes" for which the company is known, CliffsNotes.com now has lots of free articles covering the most important school subjects. Plus, simplified navigation and improved search capabilities have made it easier for students to find the information they need.

The CliffNotes brand's mission remains the same: to bring students trustworthy guides written by real teachers and professors to help make the most of study time. The Web site accomplishes this with more than 2,800 new articles, "Cliff's Tips" to help students pass all their classes, and study help for all school subjects including writing, biology, math, U.S. history, foreign languages and more.

Additional features of the enhanced Web site include dedicated test prep; resources to help students get accepted into college, and information on what to do once you get there; trusted literature notes, available free to read online or to download; e-mail newsletters; polls, sweepstakes and more. NAPS

California New Home Market Feeling the Credit Crunch

SACRAMENTO – The pace of home sales at California new-home communities slowed further in August, the California Building Industry Association reported recently, prompting calls for Congress to take action to enact reforms that could increase the availability of credit.

The monthly CBIA/Hanley Wood Market Intelligence (HWMI) New Home Sales and Pricing Report showed that new home sales in August were 45 percent below August 2006, sharpening the current trend of decline. For the month, 3,420 homes and condominiums were sold in the subdivisions tracked by Costa Mesa-based HWMI, compared to 6,181 in August 2006. Sales of single family homes dropped by 43 percent, sales of townhomes and "plexes" – duplexes, triplexes, etc. – were down 25 percent and sales of condominiums were down 55 percent.

Compared with the same period last year, the median base home asking price of homes sold dropped by 7.6 percent.

Non-seasonally adjusted total new home sales were 31.5 percent lower than levels seen in July, although August generally sees a slower pace of sales activity than July. Median prices statewide were nearly unchanged compared to July.

Jonathan Dienhart, Director of Published Research for HWMI, said the sharp decrease in sales during August largely reflects the credit problems in the mortgage market.

"The credit crunch couldn't have come at a worse time," said Dienhart. "Just when we had started to see signs of stability in some markets, the difficulty in gaining access to credit has made purchasing a new home unattainable for many prospective buyers."

Robert Rivinius, CBIA's President and CEO, said the decline was further proof that the U.S. Senate needs to take steps to ease the credit crunch facing homebuyers across the nation.

"The Senate should adopt House-passed legislation that would allow the two government-chartered lenders, Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac, to purchase mortgages in high-cost areas such as California, and changing tax laws to ensure borrowers who have portions of their loans forgiven by lenders aren't then penalized by the IRS," said Rivinius.

Dienhart said that not only must the credit situation improve, but consumers need to get their confidence back before the market can stabilize.

"Many prospective home buyers have taken themselves out of the market because it seems too risky, or because they don't feel they can sell their existing home, or because they do not believe they can qualify for an affordable mortgage."

Cooking Corner

Maple-Glazed Chicken with Cranberry Arugula Rice

3 tablespoons butter; 1/4 cup maple syrup; 1/2 cup dried cranberries; 2 cups grilled chicken breast, sliced; 1/2 teaspoon salt; 1/2 teaspoon pepper; 3 cups cooked medium or long-grain brown rice; 1 (6-ounce) package, about 5-6 cups, fresh baby arugula (Spinach may be substituted for arugula.); 1/2 cup crumbled Gorgonzola cheese.

Melt butter in large nonstick skillet over medium heat. Stir in maple syrup and cranberries; cook 1 minute.

Add chicken, salt and pepper. Cook 1 minute or until hot; remove chicken using slotted spoon; set aside.

Add rice and toss to coat; remove from heat. Toss in arugula; spoon rice mixture onto platter. Top with chicken and cheese. Serve immediately. Makes 4 servings.

Tip: Packaged refrigerated grilled chicken strips may be used. NAPS

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Justyna speaks fluent Chinese (Cantonese, Mandarin and Shanghaiese). Anna speaks fluent Indonesian.

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Visitacion Valley Police Report

Police Cases

*On Sept. 20 at 11:25 a.m., a Hayward woman was arrested after attempting to cash a forged check at a San Bruno Avenue bank. The teller compared the check that the man had presented to copies of previous checks that the account holder had written. They did not match and the police were notified. She was brought into custody without incident.

*On Oct. 12 at 10:50 a.m., officers received a 911 call from a person who just witnessed an elderly woman get robbed. The 911 caller followed the attackers to a house on the 600 block of Felton St. The door to the residence was wide open. Because a robbery had just taken place, the police went inside the house to perform a well being check. They detained all the occupants until it could be figured out what has happened. Another witness reported seeing two juveniles holding the elderly woman down and rummaging through her belongings. The witness reported that the juveniles were laughing the entire time. The victim was interviewed and she reported to being attacked and property taken from her. A cold show was performed and the two witnesses identified the victim's attackers. A search of the house revealed a picture of the victim and a family member as well as an envelope with her name on it. The suspects, both seventeen were booked at YGC. The victim was treated with a laceration to her head.

Police Summaries

*Sept. 13: Arleta Ave. and Alpha St., malicious mischief, vandalism of vehicles.
*Sept. 13: Sunnydale Ave near Santos St., malicious mischief, vandalism of vehicles.
*Sept 13: Somerset St. near Silver Ave., possession of meth-amphetamine.
*Sept. 13. San Bruno Ave. and Felton St., grand theft, shoplifting.
*Sept. 14 Harkness Ave. Brussels St., stolen automobile.
*Sept. 14 Campbell Ave.and Brussels St., burglary, residence under construction, forcible entry.
*Sept 14 Mansell and Brussels Sts., stolen truck.
*Sept. 14 San Bruno Ave near Olmstead St. burglary, store under construction, forcible entry.
*Sept. 14: Sunnydale Ave. and Hahn St., malicious mischief, vandalism of vehicles.
*Sept. 14. Sunnydale Ave near Santos St., malicious mischief, vandalism.
*Sept 14. 100 block of Blythdale Ave., grand theft from locked auto
*Sept 15: 100 block of Blythdale Ave., burglary of apartment house, forcible entry
*Sept 15: Blythdale Ave. and Santos St., burglary of apartment house, forcible entry
*Sept 15. Blythdale Ave and Santos St., stolen truck
*Sept. 15: 100 block of Blythdale Ave., malicious mischief, vandalism.
*Sept. 16. Sunnydale Ave. near Santos St., battery
*Sept. 16 Sawyer St. near Sunrise Ave., petty theft from building.
*Sept. 16: Alpha St. and Teddy Ave., battery.
*Sept. 16: Alpha St. and Teddy Ave., attempted robbery with bodily force.
*Sept. 16. Goettingen and Olmstead Sts., malicious mischief, vandalism of vehicles.
*Sept. 17. Sunnydale Ave. and Schwerin St., stolen automobile
*Sept. 17 Sunnydale Ave. and Schwerin St., stolen truck
*Sept. 17. 100 block of Hester Ave., petty theft from locked auto.
*Sept. 18. Sunnydale Ave. and Schwerin St., aggravated assault with knife.
*Sept. 18: Yale and Felton Sts., malicious mischief, vandalism of vehicles.
*Sept. 18: 1600 block of Sunnydale Ave., battery
*Sept. 18. Mansell and Girard Sts., petty theft from locked auto.
*Sept. 18: Dwight and Goettingen Sts., petty theft from locked auto.
*Sept. 18: Mansell and Somerset Sts., battery.
*Sept. 19 Sunrise Ave near Argonaut Ave., robbery on street with dangerous weapon.
*Sept. 19. Silliman and Hamilton Sts., grand theft from locked auto.
*Sept. 19 1600 block of Sunnydale Ave., possession of base/rock cocaine for sale.
*Sept. 20: First block of McCarthy Ave., robbery, bodily force.
*Sept. 20: Sunnydale Ave. near Santos St., malicious mischief, vandalism of vehicles.
*Sept. 20: Tucker Ave. near Rutland St., malicious mischief, vandalism.
*Sept. 21: Sawyer St. near Sunrise Ave., robbery, bodily force
*Sept 21: Argonaut and Garrison Aves., burglary of residence, attempted forcible entry.
*Sept. 21: Goettingen St. near Ward St., petty theft from locked auto.
*Sept. 21. Burrows and Goettingen Sts., petty theft from locked auto.
*Sept. 21: Burrows and Goettingen Sts., malicious mischief, vandalism of vehicles
*Sept. 21 University St. near Burrows St., burglary of apartment house, forcible entry.
*Sept. 22 100 block of Argonaut Ave., attempted robbery on the street with gun.
*Sept. 22: Blythdale Ave. end Santos St., robbery on the street, strongarm.
*Sept. 23: Loehr St. near Sunnydale Ave., aggravated assault with gun.
*Sept. 23: Oxford and Wayland Sts., possession of base/rock cocaine.
*Sept. 23: Oxford and Wayland Sts , possession of controlled substance.
*Sept. 23: Oxford and Wayland Sts., possession of meth-amphetamine.
*Sept. 23: Gaven St. and San Bruno Ave., stolen automobile
*Sept. 23: Arleta Ave. and Alpha St., stolen automobile.
*Sept. 23: Mansell and Girard Sts., burglary of residence, attempted forcible entry.
*Sept. 23. Mansell and Brussels Sts., robbery on street, strongarm
*Sept. 23: Wayland and Brussels Sts., grand theft from locked auto
*Sept. 23. Girard St. near Felton St., attempted robbery with bodily force.
*Sept. 24 100 block of Argonaut Ave., battery
*Sept. 24. Leland Ave. near Bayshore Blvd., burglary of store, forcible entry
*Sept. 24. Brookdale Ave. near Geneva Ave., stolen and recovered vehicle
*Sept. 24. Wilde Ave and Delta St., battery
*Sept. 24. Campbell Ave. near Delta St., petty theft from locked auto.
*Sept. 24 Bayshore Blvd and Hester Ave., stolen truck.
*Sept. 24: San Bruno Ave. and Wayland St., battery
*Sept. 24. Woolsey and Bowdoin Sts., arson of vehicle.
*Sept. 25 Sunnydale Ave and Schwerin St., battery.
*Sept. 25: Sunnydale Ave. near Santos St., burglary of residence, forcible entry
*Sept. 25: Sunnydale Ave. near Santos St., burglary of residence, forcible entry.
*Sept. 25: Sunnydale Ave. near Santos St., malicious mischief, breaking windows.
*Sept. 25: Velasco Ave. and Sawyer St., robbery on street, strongarm.
*Sept. 25. Wayland and Cambridge Sts., grand theft auto strip.
*Sept. 25: Wayland and Cambridge Sts., malicious mischief, vandalism of vehicles.
*Sept. 25. San Bruno Ave. and Burrows St., burglary, store under construction, forcible entry.
*Sept. 26: Tunnel and Visitacion Aves., grand theft from locked auto.
*Sept. 26: 200 block of Desmond St., posession of narcotics paraphernalia
*Sept. 27: 400 block of Raymond Ave., burglary, unlawful entry
*Sept. 28: Silver Ave. near Goettingen St., petty theft of property
*Sept. 28: Argonaut Ave near McCarthy Ave., attempted robbery with bodily force.
*Sept. 29. 12 noon, 100 block of Raymond Ave., fatal shooting
*Sept. 29: First block of Tucker Ave., malicious mischief, vandalism of vehicles.
*Sept. 29. Santos St. near Brookdale Ave , battery.
*Sept. 30. Holyoke and Wayland Sts , petty theft of property.
*Oct. 1: Geneva Ave. and Esquina Dr., malicious mischief, vandalism of vehicles
*Oct. 2: Leland Ave. and Schwerin St., malicious mischief, vandalism of vehicles
*Oct. 2: Leland Ave. and Schwerin St., malicious mischief, vandalism of vehicles.
*Oct. 2: Alpha St. and Campbell Ave., battery
*Oct. 2: Alpha St. and Campbell Ave , malicious mischief, vandalism of vehicles
*Oct. 3: 7:40 p.m., Towerside Ave and Schwerin St., homicide
*Oct. 3: 100 block of Loehr St., burglary of residence, forcible entry
*Oct. 3: San Bruno and Silver Aves., grand theft from locked auto
*Oct. 3: 1700 block of Sunnydale Ave., burglary of residence, forcible entry.
*Oct. 4 Visitacion Ave and Britton St., arson of vehicle.
*Oct. 4: Amhler St. at Wayland St., burglary of residence, forcible entry.
*Oct. 4: 1600 block of Sunnydale Ave., possession of base/rock cocaine for sale.
*Oct. 4 Silver Ave. near Dartmouth St., robbery on the street, strongarm.
*Oct. 5: First block of Brookdale Ave., battery.
*Oct. 5: First block of Brookdale Ave., malicious mischief, breaking windows
*Oct. 5: Blanken Ave. and Bayshore Blvd., burglary of apartment house, unlawful entry.
*Oct. 5: Blanken and Tunnel Aves., arson of vehicle.
*Oct. 5: Blanken and Tunnel Aves., stolen and recovered vehicle.
*Oct. 5 Brussels St and Harkness Ave., burglary of residence, forcible entry.
*Oct. 5: Sweeny and Barnsveld Sts., attempted robbery on street with bodily force.
*Oct 6: First block of Blythdale Ave., aggravated assault with knife.
*Oct 7 Pioche and Harvard Sts., robbery, bodily force.
*Oct. 7. San Bruno Ave. and Bacon St., attempted simple assault.
*Oct. 7 San Bruno Ave. and Bacon St., burglary of store, unlawful entry.
*Oct. 7. Felton and Cambridge Sts., stolen automobile.
*Oct 8. 1500 block of Sunnydale Ave., burglary of apartment house, forcible entry.
*Oct 9: 1600 block of Sunnydale Ave., malicious mischief, breaking windows.
*Oct. 9 San Bruno Ave. near Dwight St., carjacking with gun.
*Oct. 9: San Bruno Ave. near Dwight St., stolen automobile.
*Oct. 9: San Bruno Ave. near Dwight St., burglary, hot peowf, unlawful entry.
*Oct 9: Arleta Ave. and Rutland St., battery
*Oct. 9: 1600 block of Sunnydale Ave., malicious mischief, vandalism
*Oct 10: 100 block of Cora St., assault.
*Oct. 10: Holyoke St. and Silver Ave., grand theft pickpocket.
*Oct 10: Raymond Ave. and Delta St., petty theft from locked auto.
*Oct. 11. 100 block of Britton St., petty theft from locked auto.
*Oct. 12 Dartmoth and Silliman Sts., aggravated assault with bodily force.
*Oct. 12: Dartmoth and Silliman Sts., robbery on street, strongarm.
*Oct 12: Girard St. near Silliman St , possession of marijuana
*Oct. 12: Girard St. near Silliman St , possession of meth-amphetamine.
*Oct. 12. San Bruno Ave. and Silliman St., lost property, grand theft.
*Oct 13 San Bruno Ave. near Felton St., battery
*Oct 13: 1500 block of Sunnydale Ave., robbery on street, strongarm.
*Oct. 14 100 block of Britton St., malicious mischief, vandalism of vehicles
*Oct 14 Wayland and Ambler Sts., battery
*Oct. 14 Wayland and Somerset Sts., robbery on street, strongarm
*Oct. 15 Goettingen and Felton Sts., malicious mischief, vandalism of vehicles
*Oct 15: 100 block of Tioga Ave., stolen automobile.
*Oct. 16: 1600 block of Sunnydale Ave., burglary of apartment house, unlawful entry

Grapevine Classified

IT'S NOT SMART to do nothing when you have something negative in your life. The issue somehow affects and becomes everybody's problem.
*Getting nervous and upset.
*Feeling sick on a regular basis.
*Feeling like punching out something or someone.
*Feeling like screaming
*Can't sleep.
*Watching television all night.
*Simply not in a happy frame of mind.
*Problem making the right choices.
If you are experiencing any of these symptoms, we need to talk with you. Visitacion Valley Jobs, Educaiton and Training center offers advocacy and mediation services relating to all types of quality-of-life issues. Court-mandated programs available. Service and trust is our commitment to the community. Contact Marjorie Ann Williams, Counselor at (415) 239-2877.

VVCC BOARD MEETINGS: Visitacion Valley Community Center (VVCC) regular monthly Board meetings, held the 4th Thursday of each month at 6 p.m., except December and May, are open to the public. Board members are selected by the members of the community center with dues currently paid, at the Annual Membership meeting held the 3rd Saturday in May each year. Any vacancies that occur on the Board due to uncompleted 3-year terms of membership are filled by appointment of the remaining Board members. At least 75% of our Board members must reside in Visitacion Valley. Persons interested in Board membership are encouraged to send a letter of interest to: Board of Directors Development Committee, Visitacion Valley Community Center, 50 Raymond Avenue, San Francisco, CA 94134 Please let the Board know what you could contribute that will enhance and improve our organization for better service to our community You will be contacted and your letter will be submitted to the Board for consideration at either the next Annual election or of any available open positions that might occur within the coming year.

VOLUNTEERS WANTED for VVCC After School Program to tutor children ages 5-14 at one of our 11 sites in the Visitacion Valley area Interested persons contact Dee Smith, VVCC After School coordinator: (415) 585-2059

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Crossword Puzzle Solution

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E	L	L	E		U	M	E		P	A	B	A
D	I	S	A	G	R	E	E		A	M	I	R
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Reindeer Romp at the San Francisco Zoo

Santa's special reindeer – Holly, Velvet, Peppermint and Belle – will return to the Bay Area to once again bring the spirit of the season to children of all ages for the third annual *Reindeer Romp* beginning Nov. 18 at the San Francisco Zoo.

The wildly popular Reindeer Romp is the only opportunity in the Bay Area to see real live reindeer. The female adult reindeer, resplendent in their red holiday harnesses and velvet-like antlers, will be housed at the holiday-themed Reindeer Romp Village located on the north side of the Zoo.

New this year to Reindeer Romp is the Zoo's Ice Skating Rink, where guests can mimic the freestyle moves of figure skating legends Kristi Yamaguchi and Brian Boitano or experience the tranquility of gliding and sliding around a frozen pond. Skate rental is $5 per skater. All levels of ice skating experience welcomed.

Throughout the month-long Reindeer Romp, a number of different holiday-themed activities will occur.

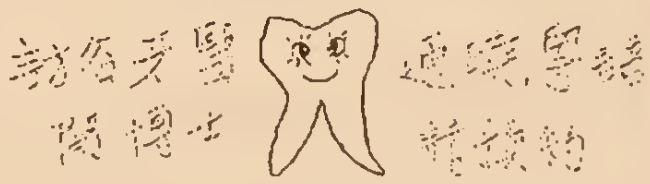
On weekends, beginning Nov. 24 through Dec. 23, the Zoo will conduct its traditional "presents for the animals" demonstration, where critters big and small receive wrapped boxes with some of their favorite fruits and vegetables.

Visitors also are invited to design antlers to wear for a nominal fee and participate in the Zoo's Adopt-an-Animal program, which makes for great holiday items.

Reindeer Romp is free with paid Zoo admission and is available daily through Dec. 31, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., rain or shine.

VISITACION VALLEY DENTAL OFFICE

Albert Kuan, D.D.S.



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Friday Bible Fellowship: 7:30 p.m.
Saturday Choir Rehersal: 10:00 a.m.

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Come to Church This Week

Five Car Care Do's Don't Get Done

An oil change or tire rotation is one more chore on your never-ending to-do list that never takes priority and seldom gets done. AAA of Northern California points out that October Car Care Month is a great time to take care of routine auto maintenance before winter sets in, and to prevent budget-busting repair bills later.

"Not only will better vehicle maintenance improve fuel economy, in many cases it also will prevent expensive, unforeseen repair bills," said AAA of Northern California automotive expert Mark Woods. "Your savings account isn't the only thing you'll protect by paying attention to your vehicle. A car that is in top working condition is much safer for you and your passengers."

Last year, vehicle inspection events held during AAA Car Care Month in October uncovered high percentages of maintenance issues that were well on their way to becoming real problems for vehicle owners. Described below are five examples of why following your car's recommended maintenance schedule is not an inconsequential hassle, but rather a way to ensure your vehicle operates more safely, uses fuel more efficiently, lasts longer and retains its value for resale.

5. Oil Change

Why: Oil is the lifeblood of your engine. Without an adequate supply of clean oil, your engine will wear more rapidly, and could even seize and be destroyed. Oil's viscosity (thickness) increases as the mercury drops. Lighter grade oils reduce the load on your car's battery and starter, allowing more rapid cranking and starting, and greatly reduce wear on the engine. During AAA inspections in 2006, 17 percent of cars needed immediate oil changes.

When: Change your engine's oil and oil filter at the intervals specified and always use the weight of oil recommended by your vehicle's manufacturer for the existing temperature conditions.

4. Refill Windshield Washer Fluid

Why: Rain, insects, grime, and other debris on your windshield will compromise your vision if they cannot be removed by your windshield wipers. A supply of the proper washer fluid will help your wipers remove these contaminants effectively. AAA found 7 percent of cars in need of washer fluid.

When: Check your washer fluid reservoir monthly and more often when you use the washers frequently. Top it up with a washer solution formulated to aid in the removal of insects and other debris, and during winter, be sure to use a solution with anti-freeze protection if temperatures in your area regularly drop below freezing. Finally, test the washer spray nozzles for proper operation and aim.

3. Check Battery Cables/Clamps/Terminals

Why: Power from the battery flows to the rest of your vehicle's electrical system through the cables, clamps, and terminals. If these components and connections become corroded or loose, your car won't have the power needed to start the engine and operate other systems. Nearly 10 percent of cars inspected by AAA required attention to their batteries and battery housing.

When: Inspect battery cables, clamps, and connections at every oil change. If there are signs of corrosion, or you notice other indications of electrical problems such as slow engine cranking or dimming headlights at idle, have your repair shop test the charging and starting system, and clean and tighten the battery connections as necessary.

2. Check Engine Air Filter

Why: Your vehicle's air filter prevents dust and dirt from entering the engine. A dirty or clogged air filter restricts airflow and will reduce engine performance and fuel economy while increasing exhaust emission levels. AAA inspections found 18 percent of air filters in need of replacement.

When: Check the air filter every six months or 7,500 miles. Typically, your repair shop will inspect the filter at each oil change. You can check it by holding it up to a 60-watt light bulb. If you can see light through much of the filter, it is still clean enough to work effectively. However, if the light is blocked by most of the filter, replace it.

1. Check Tire Pressure

Why: Over-inflated tires ride roughly and suffer premature wear at the center of their tread. Under-inflated tires decrease fuel economy, cause imprecise handling, suffer premature wear at the edges of their tread, and can overheat and fail at highway speeds. Tires typically lose about one pound of pressure per month through normal seepage, and as seasons change, tires lose or gain another pound of inflation pressure with every 10 degree change in outside temperature. More than 25 percent of vehicles inspected by AAA had tires over- or under-inflated.

When: Check the tire pressures (including the spare) at least once a month when the tires are cold. Always follow the inflation pressure recommendations in your owner's manual, or those on the tire information label that is located in the glove box, on a door jamb, or on the underside of the trunk lid. Do not use the inflation pressure molded into the tire sidewall; this is the pressure needed to achieve the tire's rated load capacity, and it may or may not be the correct pressure for your particular car.

Bay Area Unveils Disaster Response Management Tool

From Page 1

CCSF employees will be asked to access their profiles on *HelpBay Area.org* to verify that contact information is current and to identify skills that may be of value during a disaster response. These skills include language abilities, possession of specialized training certification or licenses, or CPR/First Aid or NERT/CERT (Neighborhood Emergency Response Team/Community Emergency Response Team) training.

On a nightly basis, the system will verify that medical and other professional licenses are valid. As employees update their personal profiles, the utility of the system will continue to increase.

"HelpBayArea.org will allow us to assign city employees and volunteers to provide disaster response assistance where they are needed most," said Laura Phillips, Executive Director of the San Francisco Department of Emergency Management and Chair of the Bay Area SUASI's Approval Authority.

"City employees have always been Disaster Service Workers; now, for the first time, the City will have the actual ability to effectively recall and deploy its employees in the event of a major disaster using the HelpBayArea.org system," said Micki Callahan, Director of the San Francisco Department of Human Resources.

"The launching of *HelpBayArea.org* marks a significant project milestone," said Bay Area SUASI General Manager Rich Shortall. "It is the first major 2006 grant year project to reach completion, and exemplifies how the collaborative process can benefit the entire region by addressing a universal challenge – the vetting, mobilization and tracking of emergency responders."

Collaborative Fusion, Inc. developed the platform for this product and has recently worked with the Bay Area SUASI's Volunteer Management System's steering committee to develop the new website. One of the key mission management tools is the system's powerful search criteria, which enable complex searches across responder groups. For example, the system can be used to search for a doctor fluent in Portuguese, who has had a flu vaccine and is able to deploy for two weeks to an in-state location.

The platform on which *HelpBay Area.org* was built can be easily adapted to accommodate specific needs of individual jurisdictions or organizations, and it can sync with other systems in the region and throughout the state. It is currently used by nine states, including California, Florida, Pennsylvania, Georgia, North Carolina, Louisiana, Minnesota, West Virginia, Delaware, and the District of Columbia. HelpBayArea.org will be able to sync with systems used throughout California and to call up responders using the advanced search criteria, to provide more effective disaster support.

The Bay Area SUASI enhances regional capability through regional collaboration: to prevent, protect against, respond to, and recover from terrorist incidents and other catastrophic events in the 10-county region. For more information on the Bay Area SUASI, please visit www.bayareasuasi.org.

For more information about the Interoperability Policy Academy, please visit www.naco.org.

For more information on disaster preparedness, please visit www.72hours.org or call 3-1-1 to request emergency preparedness brochures.

For more information on the City and County of San Francisco's employee Disaster Service Worker (DSW) Program, please visit the Department of Human Resources' DSW website, www.SFDSW.org.

ABCs of Short-Term Consumer Loans

The fridge just died and you need money fast. You're tempted to apply for a "quick and easy" loan. Don't act in haste! Opting for speed may prove to be a costly mistake, warns the Better Business Bureau.

The BBB has a new educational resource – BBBTips™ on the ABCs of Short-Term Loans —to assist people who lack a savings fund for emergency expenses.

"Taking the 'easy way out' can trap you in a cycle of debt. Whenever you need to borrow money, borrow from a source you can trust," said Steve Cole, president and CEO of the Council of Better Business Bureaus.

BBBTips™ on Short-Term Loans offers information on payday loans, car title loans, credit cards and other sources of ready cash for consumers in a financial pinch. The new educational resource is available in the Resource Library.

Included is an "ABC" checklist (Annual Percentage Rate, Behavior, Comparison Shopping and Deceptive Offers) for would-be borrowers to consult.

The BBBTips™ series on credit and debit issues is sponsored by ClearPoint Financial Solutions, Inc., a member of the Better Business Bureau system.

"We are pleased to partner with the BBB to encourage consumers to make sensible financial decisions. Always do your homework and learn as much as possible when considering any type of loan," said Dan Oelrich, president and CEO of ClearPoint.

ClearPoint Financial Solutions, Inc.™ is a national non-profit organization dedicated to helping consumers achieve financial wellness through counseling and education. Established in 1980, ClearPoint has helped over one million individuals achieve financial security. ClearPoint is a System-wide member of the Better Business Bureau (BBB), and one of the largest members of the National Foundation for Credit Counseling (NFCC).

Headquartered in Richmond, Virginia, ClearPoint manages branches across the country. Personalized and confidential consultations are available in person, by phone at (877) 498.2777, or visit online at www.ClearPointFinancialSolutions.org

Ten Important Safety Tips for Parents of Teen Drivers

A few relatively simple steps could be enough to save a life. That's why AAA of Northern California has a plan designed to help keep teen drivers safe on the road.

"When it comes to protecting teen drivers from serious crashes, concerned parents can make a critical difference," said Sean Comey, spokesperson for AAA of Northern California. "Automobile crashes are the leading cause of death for teens. That's why we developed a strategy for parents to help keep young drivers safe."

1. Evaluate your teen's driving readiness. Not all teens are ready to drive at the same age. Teenagers mature, develop emotionally and become responsible at varying rates, which parents need to gauge as they determine when their teen is ready to drive.

2. Be a responsible role model: Teenagers learn from their parents' behavior. Parents' actions behind the wheel influence the driving behavior of their teens. Research from the AAA Foundation for Traffic Safety found that, when using the number of collisions and traffic tickets as criteria, the parents of teens involved in crashes were more likely to have poor driving records than the parents of collision-free teens.

3. Eliminate distractions: Cell phones and text messaging can be hazardous distractions for teen drivers. Beginning July 1, 2008, California law will ban inexperienced teen drivers from using cell phones and other wireless communication devices while driving. Parents should not wait for the law to take effect in order to encourage changes in driving behavior that could prevent a deadly crash.

4. Restrict passengers and night driving: Extensive research indicates that a teen driver's chances of crashing increases with each additional teen passenger. Parents need to make sure they know who is driving with their teen at all times. Research shows teen crash rates spike at night and that most night time crashes occur between 9 p.m. and midnight. California law already places restrictions on inexperienced teen drivers carrying passengers and driving at night, but parents can protect their teen drivers by enforcing the regulations and extending them beyond the mandatory first year of driving.

5. Take advantage of extra training: AAA offers DriverZED, an interactive DVD that takes teens through more than 100 live-action scenarios and helps them learn how to identify, assess and react to a wide range of potential risks. Free to AAA members and only $7 for non-members, DriverZed can be ordered online at www.aaa.com/trafficsafety.

Another option is the AAA Teen Driver Safety Program. It helps teens drive more safely and rewards drivers ages 16-18 who successfully complete home study coursework with a discount of up to 20 percent on AAA Auto Insurance. AAA members can receive a $50 discount on the cost of the program. Visit www.aaa.com and search for "teensmart" for more information.

6. Choose the safest vehicle: As the family member most likely to crash, a teen should drive the safest vehicle the family owns. Factors to consider are vehicle type, size and safety technology:

*Sedans are generally safer than sports cars, SUVs and pickup trucks.

*Larger vehicles generally fare better in crashes than smaller vehicles.

*Front and side air bags, anti-lock brakes and stability control systems make it easier to avoid crashes and improve teens' chances of surviving should they crash.

7. Practice: Supervised driving lessons with parents provide teens with opportunities to enhance learning, reinforce proper driving skills and receive constructive feedback from the people who care most about their safety and success. To assist parents in these efforts, AAA offers a guide for parents called Teaching Your Teens To Drive. The guide is available online at www.aaa.com/trafficsafety.

8. Encourage teens to get enough sleep: Teens need about nine hours of sleep every night, but many teens get far less rest because of early-morning school start times, homework, sports, after-school jobs and other activities. A lack of sleep can negatively affect vision, hand-eye coordination, reaction time and judgment.

9. Establish a parent-teen driving agreement: Having rules, conditions, restrictions and consequences of teens' driving written down in advance establishes driving as a privilege, and not an activity to be taken for granted. AAA offers parent-teen driving agreements at www.aaa.com/trafficsafety.

10. Weekly review and discussion: Parental involvement and communication is critical in the prevention of teen-related crashes, injuries and fatalities. Designate a time each week to address any concerns of both parents and teen, review the teen's driving performance and chart the progression towards established goals and benchmarks.

Cell Phones and the *Do Not Call* Registry

The Federal Trade Commission today reiterated that despite the claims made in e-mails circulating on the Internet, consumers should not be concerned that their cell phone numbers will be released to telemarketers in the near future, and that it is not necessary to register cell phone numbers on the National Do Not Call (DNC) Registry to be protected from most telemarketing calls to cell phones.

The truth about cell phones and the DNC Registry is:

*Contrary to the e-mail, cell phone numbers are not being released to telemarketers, and you will not soon be getting telemarketing calls on your cell phone.

*There is no deadline by which you must register your cell phone number on the Registry.

*Federal Communications Commission (FCC) regulations prohibit telemarketers from using automated dialers to call cell phone numbers. Automated dialers are standard in the industry, so most telemarketers are barred from calling consumers on their cell phones without their consent.

*The national associations representing telemarketers have stated that their members do not intend to start calling consumers' cell phones.

*There is only one National DNC Registry. There is no separate registry for cell phones.

*The DNC Registry accepts registrations from both cell phones and land lines. You must call from the phone number that you want to register. If you register online, you must respond to a confirmation e-mail.

*While the telecommunications industry has been discussing the possibility of creating a wireless 411 directory, according to the FCC, even if a wireless 411 directory is established, most telemarketing calls to cell phones would still be illegal, regardless of whether the number is listed on the federal government's Do Not Call Registry.

According to the industry:

*Your number would not be included in a wireless411 directory unless you wanted it to be (i.e., you will have to "opt-in"); and

*The wireless 411 directory would not be available in a printed, electronic, or Internet list for tele-marketers.

Grapevine Puzzler S.F. Neighborhoods, Pt. 2

N	A	D	R	O	J	A	C	K	S	O	N	W	O	T	N	A	P	A	J
N	O	I	S	S	I	M	O	U	N	T	A	I	N	O	G	I	A	S	K
L	E	L	T	T	I	L	D	O	O	W	Y	L	L	O	H	M	H	T	R
A	C	E	L	I	T	T	L	E	D	I	S	E	L	G	N	I	U	H	A
K	A	L	W	S	D	C	I	F	I	C	A	P	A	R	K	S	N	G	P
E	R	D	E	I	A	D	G	J	Y	E	L	L	A	V	R	S	T	I	O
S	R	N	I	N	U	Y	R	S	N	K	M	S	L	M	A	I	E	E	I
I	E	A	V	G	I	A	F	D	O	F	E	T	S	N	P	O	R	H	N
D	T	H	N	L	O	M	C	M	B	J	R	H	D	S	U	N	S	E	T
E	H	N	A	E	S	O	I	I	H	K	C	G	A	D	N	O	H	L	E
L	G	A	E	S	T	L	F	D	I	L	E	I	V	P	A	R	K	E	R
T	I	P	C	I	H	A	I	T	L	B	D	E	B	N	A	T	D	R	R
T	A	E	O	D	G	R	C	O	L	L	I	H	B	O	N	H	A	U	A
I	H	R	B	E	I	I	A	W	D	E	C	R	E	M	I	O	V	A	C
L	A	A	A	O	E	M	P	N	Y	E	L	L	A	V	R	F	I	L	E
O	L	U	Y	N	H	C	A	E	B	R	U	S	S	I	A	T	D	A	L
W	I	Q	I	E	T	N	U	O	M	L	O	W	E	R	M	H	S	G	T
E	N	S	M	I	S	S	I	O	N	A	H	T	R	O	N	E	O	U	T
R	A	E	N	O	L	O	W	E	R	K	O	U	T	E	R	E	N	N	I
B	M	A	N	O	R	E	D	I	S	E	L	G	N	I	N	D	I	A	L

Hayes	Japantown	Little	Marina	Nob Hill
Valley	Jordan	Russia	Merced	Noe
Hunters	Park	Little	Heights	Valley
Point	Laguna	Saigon	Merced	North
India	Honda	Lone	Manor	Beach
Basin	Lake	Mountain	Midtown	North
Ingleside	Lakeside	Lower	Terrace	of the
Ingleside	Laurel	Haight	Miraloma	Panhandle
Terrace	Heights	Lower	Park	Oceanview
Inner	Little	Pacific	Mission Bay	Outer
Sunset	Hollywood	Heights	Mission	Mission
Jackson	Little	Lower	Mount	Pacific
Square	Manila	Nob Hill	Davidson	Heights

Historic Proportions

1877

Match clues to answers.

1. Asaph Hall discovered moons of this planet in August.
2. On Dec. 14, Serbia restated its previous declaration of war against this country.
3. First battle, Siege of Pleven took place July 19.
4. On Apr. 24, country declared war on Ottoman Empire.
5. Mount Cotopaxi erupted here on June 26 killing 1,000.
6. Country declared independent from Ottoman Empire.
7. Emile Berliner invented this on Mar. 4.
8. On June 15, he became the first African American cadet to graduate from the United States Military Academy.
9. Thomas Edison announced his invention of this on Nov. 21.
10. He became President of the United States on Mar. 4.
11. On May 6, he surrendered to United States troops in Nebraska.
12. She was proclaimed Empress of India by the Royal Titles Act on Jan. 1.

A. Ecuador
B. Phonograph
C. Russia
D. Henry Ossian Flipper
E. Mars
F. Microphone
G. Queen Victoria
H. Turkey
I. Chief Crazy Horse
J. Russo-Turkish War
K. Romania
L. Rutherford B. Hayes

Answers: 1-E, 2-H, 3-J, 4-C, 5-A, 6-K, 7-J, 8-D, 9-B, 10-L, 11-I, 12-G.

As a Matter of Fact

*The Mardi Gras celebration goes back to the ancient Roman custom of merrymaking before a period of fast. In Germany, it is called Fstnacht and in England, Pancake Day.

*Teenagers eat candy most often: 21 percent eat it every day; 86 percent eat it at least once a week.

*The practice of numbering houses began in Pont Notre Dame in Paris, France in 1643.

*The anti-malarial drug quinine comes from the bark of the cinchona tree, a South American evergreen.

*The average American household uses about 110,000 gallons of water a year.

*Before the invention of the telescope, dim stars could not be seen. When they brightened, it was thought they were new stars.

*Of all crops planted annually in the U.S., cotton has the longest growing season from 150 to 180 days.

*The human body has more than 600 major muscles. Only about 240 of them have specific names.

*The impala is a swift, graceful antelope that can leap up to 30 feet in a single bound.

*George Washington was the only president to receive all electoral college votes twice, in the 1788 and 1792 elections.

*The Phoenicians and Romans made a purple dye from Murex sea snails. Cloth covered with this dye was more valuable than gold.

Sez Who?

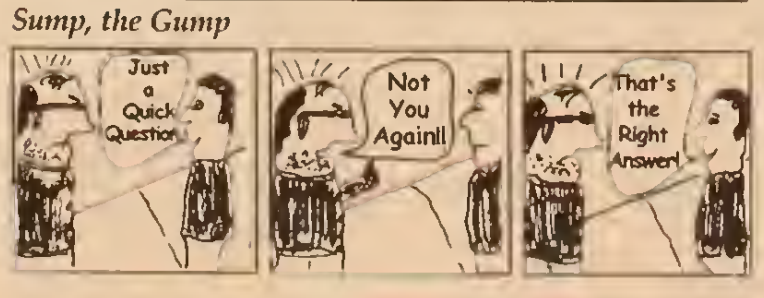
Match quotes to speakers.

1. "Coffee is not my cup of tea."
2. "A man does not have to be an angel in order to be a saint."
3. "Gravitation is not responsible for people falling in love."
4. "Never let your sense of morals prevent you from doing what's right."
5. "Every mile is two in winter."
6. "Judge a man by his questions rather than by his answers."
7. "Failure is the opportunity to begin again, more intelligently."
8. "Have a heart that never hardens, a temper that never tries and a touch that never hurts."
9. "The world is full of cactus, but we don't have to sit on it."

A. Isaac Asimov
B. Will Foley
C. George Herbert
D. Samuel Goldwyn
E. Henry Ford
F. Charles Dickens
G. Albert Einstein
H. Voltaire
I. Albert Schweitzer

Answers: 1-D, 2-I, 3-G, 4-A, 5-C, 6-H, 7-E, 8-F, 9-B.

Sump, the Gump



Poor Rix Almanac

by Rix Quinn

Dear Rix: A British scientist wants to create a 99 percent man and 1 percent rabbit. Who would want a rabbit as part of the family? They would have a house full of little bunnies running around within a year. – Violet, New York

Poor Rix used to have a rabbit, but it escaped from its cage, and ran head first into a large cat. Now Poor Rix has no hare.

Poor Rix is curious about a man-rabbit hybrid. Could he run fast? Could he hear better? Would he snack on carrots at work?

Would a man-rabbit want to live indoors? Would he – like a love-starved bachelor – try to escape to return to the wild?

Here are two other reasons Poor Rix would not want to be part man-part rabbit. Most rabbits live 12 years or so. Poor Rix is well past that, and is not in a hurry to take the dirt nap.

And many experts say male rabbits should be neutered. The very thought of this makes Poor Rix hop for a hiding place.

Poor Rix: Here's a pre-Thanksgiving question. How old is the turkey species? – Anthropologist

Scientists say birds similar to turkeys originated during the Pliocene era, nearly three million years ago. Others say they're distant cousins to a pheasant-like fowl who roamed the world 7 million years before that.

If any birds remain from that time, they're old and wrinkled now…and would look terrible in tank-tops.

Dear Poor Rix: It seems like every time I turn on the television they're talking about a new political debate. What do you know about the voting process? – Election Emily

Poor Rix would like to vote frequently, sometimes in the same election.

But seriously, voting has helped societies select public officials for years. In ancient times, folks made their choice by dropping corn kernels or beans into their favored candidate's pot. If the candidate took his beans and boiled them, it was called "cooking the election."

Long ago, in small elections with few voters, officials asked the crowd to show a preference by simply raising their hands. This was called "hand-picking a candidate."

Paper ballots appeared in the 19th century. Voters could circle or check their selection, or they could "write in" somebody else. This worked until several folks wrote "Nobody" on their ballots.

When Nobody won, officials had to find a guy by that name to send to the legislature. But he didn't want to go.

Today states can select paper ballots, computer voting, optical scans, or punch cards.

How do we choose candidates? In the early days, party leaders made that selection. In 1903 Wisconsin held the first primary, allowing several aspirants to seek numerous offices.

Today – if you count city, regional, area, state, and national elections – we can all run for something. But not Poor Rix, who will run for free food, but not much else.

Grapevine Five Years Ago

NOVEMBER 2002

*Visitacion Valley got its first look at the City's new parking meters when workers began installing them along Leland Avenue on the second week of October.

*Visitacion Valley Jobs, Education and Training programs began conducting workshops on how to get into one of 26 building trade apprenticeship programs.

*The American Red Cross Bay Area Chapter joined with the San Francisco Tool Lending Center to offer an Earthquake Tips and Tools program.

Dear Poor Rix: Who invented fire? – Student

Fire's not a new creation. It's been around three gazillion years, long before Poor Rix grew into the primordial slimeball he is today.

Prehistoric people didn't know what to do with flames because (a) nobody had invented cookbooks and (b) they had zero knowledge of fireplace construction or chimney design.

Early humans captured fire by taking burning wood from place to place. That's a tough assignment, especially in hot weather with the wind in your face.

This explains why many Neanderthal husbands – just home from a long day of flame carrying – were greeted with the words "Have you been smoking?"

When one log was nearly consumed, carriers used it to ignite another. That's where we get the phrase, "Hey, buddy…got a light?"

Generous prehistoric folks shared their fire with those nearby. But a few squabbling lamebrains took the gesture too far, and lit neighboring huts. That's where we get the term "housewarming."

During medieval times, fire became a powerful weapon. Warriors asked a volunteer to hold a blazing torch in each hand, then sent him running toward the enemy. This brave soldier was called a "knight light."

Rix Quinn — who wrote the book on short writing "Words That Stick" — invites your Baby Boomer questions to rixquinn@charter.net.

Baby Boomers

by Rix Quinn

Into the 1970s

Although many of us weren't born during the 1950s, most of us remember parts of the 1960s and 1970s.

If you didn't experience these important decades, we'll share some events with you. And if you were there – but for some reason don't remember – we'll refresh those slightly older brain cells.

If the 1960s was the age of counterculture, the 1970s became the age of...well, how about "what's happening to our culture?"

We watched the Watergate hearings, and wondered what was happening in Washington. We watched gas stations run low on fuel in 1973 and 1977, and discovered what a big role fuel played in our lives. We watched The Brady Bunch on TV, and wondered what would happen to each one of the kids every week.

And many, many Boomers — about half of them — began to look for their first full-time jobs. As our huge numbers moved into the work force, we created a number of new career fields in the computer, health care, and communications industries which are still growing today.

Film Strips

How many of you Boomers remember "film strips?" They were sorta like slide shows.

Each was accompanied by audio. The teacher moved to the next slide every time the audio "beeped." One time this kid in our class made random beep sounds. The teacher raced through the slides, leaving us several minutes of mind-numbing audio about hibernating snakes.

Did you ever see a film strip? Did anybody in your class die from boredom? My two favorite film strips were "From Caterpillar to Butterfly" and "Mr. Gorilla Volunteers at a Hospital." (Actually I made that last one up, because I never saw a film strip about a gorilla, especially one with first aid skills.)

The 1960s

The first part of the 1960s brought this country a new, young President, John F. Kennedy. The end of the decade ushered in hippies, drugs, and colorful, tie-dyed shirts.

The questions you should probably ask are: 1. What happened to the middle of the decade? 2. What are hippies? 3. How are shirts tie-dyed, and where are those shirts now?

*Most of us don't remember what happened during those middle years because we hit puberty. It's long been suspected that a person cannot hit puberty and retain useful information simultaneously.

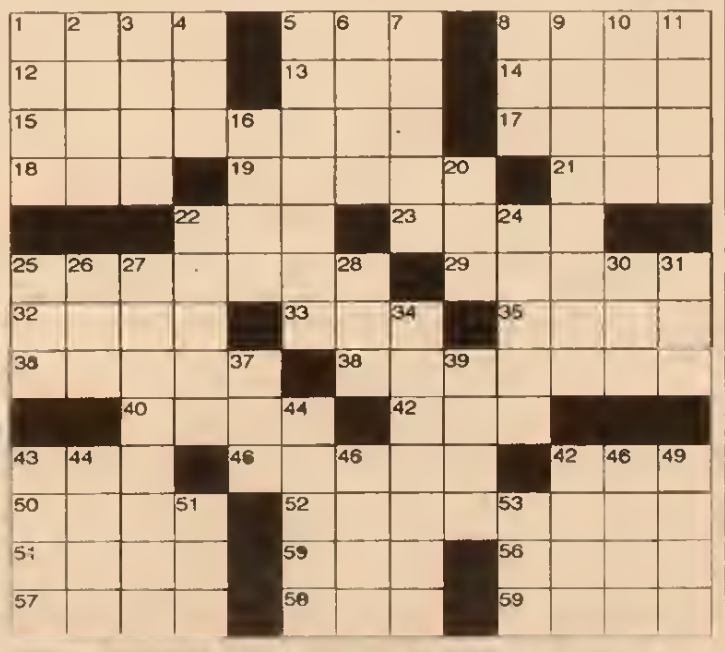
*Hippies were children of the '60s who focused on love, peace, and music. A few also focused on recreational drugs, which they used until their eyes unfocused. They wore outrageous clothing, headbands and long hair.

*Tie-dying is a method of tying material before it's put in dye so only part of the fabric is dyed. Many of those shirts can be found today at garage sales.

If you are a Baby Boomer, Rix needs your help! Please e-mail your answer to the following question to rixquinn@charter.net: "What is the best part of being a Baby Boomer?"

Crossword Puzzle

Solution on Page 8



ACROSS
1 Bath (Fr.)
5 Explode
8 Of the kind of (suf.)
12 She (Fr.)
13 Jap. apricot
14 Para-aminobenzoic acid
15 Differ
17 Arabian chieftan
18 Greek letter
19 Tree
21 Asbestos (abbr.)
22 Burmese knife
23 Incessantly
25 It. marble
29 Tiled land
32 Common man
33 Siesta
35 Adjective-forming (suf.)
36 Agave fiber
38 Daw
40 Soft mineral
42 Guido's note (2 words)
43 Noun-forming (suf.)
45 Yam
47 Hawaiian frigate bird
50 House (Sp.)
52 Em (2 words)
54 Monad
55 Feline
56 South African
57 Senior (Fr.)
58 Donkey (Fr.)
59 Salver

DOWN
1 "Venerable" monk
2 Settled
3 "Casablanca" characters
4 National Endowment for the Arts (abbr.)
5 Steal
6 Buddhist sacred mountain
7 Pique
8 Amazon tributary
9 N.A. tree
10 Wading bird
11 Carbon (pref.)
16 Objective
20 Stowe character
22 Old Spanish gold coin
24 Heath evergreen
25 Consumer price index (abbr.)
26 They (Fr.)
27 Peccadillo (2 words)
28 Horse
30 Arabic letter
31 Cheer
34 Bishop
37 Sprite
39 Away from the wind
41 Slayer of Caesar
43 Ecuador (abbr.)
44 Hindu queen
46 Hit on the head
47 Frankenstein's assistant
48 Olive genius
49 Eagle's nest
51 Daughter of Zeus
53 American Ballet Theatre (abbr.)

Visitacion Valley Business Directory

Valley free listings in the 415 area code. Call the Grapevine at (415) 467-9300.

AQUARIUM
DRAGON CITY AQUARIUM, 144 Leland Ave., 333-4598
AUTOMOTIVE
BAYSHORE AUTO, 2260 Bayshore Blvd., 467-6130
BAYSHORE SERVICE, 2596 Bayshore Blvd., 239-5239
BROTHER'S AUTO BODY, 2520 Bayshore Blvd.
CHARLIE'S GARAGE, 2550 Bayshore Blvd., 239-7450
TW AUTOMOTIVE, 2500 Bayshore Blvd., 585-8281
BANK
BANK OF AMERICA, 6 Leland Ave., 622-4501
BAKERS
LITTLE QUIAPO BAKE SHOP, 169 Leland Ave., 239-2253
BARBERS
BARBERSHOP, 3570 San Bruno Ave., 724-4398
DeMASI'S BARBER SHOP, 35 Leland Ave.
THE SHOP (JB), 160A Leland Ave., 239-6709
BEAUTICIANS
BODY, SOUL & SPIRIT, 222 Leland Ave., 333-7261
FACE, BODY & SOUL, 3582 San Bruno Ave., 467-3223
HONG KONG HAIR & NAIL BEAUTY SALON, 199 Leland Ave., 333-1005
LUCKY HAIR, 2436 Bayshore Blvd., 586-8288
MAY MAY BEAUTY SALON, 60 Leland Ave., 337-9381
MIZ RENA'S SALON, 19 Blanken Ave., 467-3399
NAILS BY JENNY, 50 Leland Ave., 333-6800
WHO'S BADD, 224 Leland Ave., 657-3156
BLIND CLEANING
SPEEDY ULTRASONIC BLIND CLEANING (commercial and residential), 1116 Girard St., 467-7506
BOARDING HOUSE
ABLE'S CASA, 850 Rutland St., 333-4664, fax 333-4693
BOOKKEEPERS
AMY ARAGON, PROFESSIONAL BOOKKEEPER, 467-8927
VERNA WALLACE E.A., 2320 Bayshore Blvd., 239-5333
CARPETS
HANSAN INTERIORS, 41 Leland Ave., 333-6382
CHURCHES
CHURCH OF THE VISITACION, 655 Sunnydale Ave., 239-5950
IGLESIA EL ESPIRITU SANTO, 38 Leland Ave.
KOREAN FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, 333 Tunnel Ave., 468-1213
RIDGE VIEW UNITED METHODIST CHURCH, 590 Leland Ave., 239-5457
ST. JAMES PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, 240 Leland Ave., 586-6381
VALLEY BAPTIST CHURCH, 305 Raymond Ave., 467-6055
VISITACION CHINESE BAPTIST CHURCH, 8 Desmond St., 333-4503
COFFEE
CANDLESTICK COFFEE, 2155 Bayshore Blvd., 467-2442
HAPPY DONUT, 2600 Bayshore Blvd., 469-5309
JOE LELAND CAFE, 28 Leland Ave.
CREDIT UNION
NORTHEAST COMMUNITY FEDERAL CREDIT UNION, 29 Leland Ave., 434-0738
DAY CARE
CAROUSEL DAY CARE, 261 Hahn St., 469-5353
DENTIST
VISITACION VALLEY DENTAL OFFICE (Albert Kuan, DDS), 37 Leland Ave., 239-5500
DEVELOPERS
VISITACION VALLEY COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION, 1099 Sunnydale Ave., 587-7895
ELECTRICAL
TATE ELECTRIC (Joel Tate), 467-4657
FLORISTS
IL FIORE FLOWERS, 2466 San Bruno Ave. 468-0145
GARDEN ORNAMENTS
SILVESTRI GARDEN ORNAMENTS, 2635 Bayshore Blvd., 239-5990
GROCERS
CASA LOPEZ PRODUCE, 58 Leland Ave., 586-4745
E-Z STOP MARKET, 2203 Geneva Ave., 585-9240
FIVE MILE MARKET, 3574 San Bruno Ave., 467-7300
K.C. MARKET, 400 Wilde St., 467-3024
LA LOMA PRODUCE #2, 65 Leland Ave., 239-7520
LITTLE VILLAGE MARKET, 1450 Sunnydale Ave., 586-1815
M & M SHORTS TOP, 2145 Geneva Ave., 585-0878
PICCOLO PETE, 2156 Bayshore Blvd., 468-6800
7-11, 2200 Bayshore Blvd., 468-8646
SHUN LEE MARKET, 2400 Bayshore Blvd., 586-4851
SMITTY'S MARKET, 2610 Bayshore Blvd., 239-5506
SUPER FAIR MARKET, 201 Leland Ave., 239-6856
TEDDY'S MARKET, 298 Teddy Ave.
HERBS
SAN ON HERBS, 33-A Leland Ave. 333-7469
HYPNOTHERAPY
VALERIE HABEGGER-HYPNOTHERAPY, 371 Teddy Ave., 468-5631
INSURANCE
EDIE EPPS (A.H.E. INSURANCE), 467-0236, Fax 467-0276
ROBERT LEHMAN, CLTC (Blue Cross), 333-0850
KITCHEN CABINETS
LEE CHANG INTERNATIONAL, 25 Leland Ave., 333-2730
LAUNDRY/CLEANERS
BAY WASH, 44 Leland Ave.
CITY WASH, 83 Leland Ave., 333-9467
COIN WASH & DRY LAUNDRY, 186 Leland Ave.
FORTY-NINER CLEANERS, 51 Leland Ave., 239-6418
LELAND AVENUE CLEANERS, 151 Leland Ave., 586-1412
VALLEY LAUNDRY, 90 Leland Ave.
VISITACION VALLEY LAUNDRY, 108 Leland Ave., 239-9030
LEARNING
FIRST PLACE 2 START, 1252 Sunnydale Ave., 333-2659
HERITAGE HOMES CHILD AND FAMILY DEVELOPMENT CENTER, 245 Rey St., 586-8700.
JOHN KING CHILD AND FAMILY DEVELOPMENT CENTER, 500 Raymond Ave., 333-1375
VISITACION VALLEY COMMUNITY BEACON CENTER, 450 Raymond Ave., 452-4907
VISITACION VALLEY COMMUNITY CENTER CHILDRENS PROGRAMS, 103 Tucker Ave., 467-5565
VISITACION VALLEY FAMILY SCHOOL, 325 Leland Ave., 585-9320
LIBRARY
VISITACION VALLEY BRANCH, 45 Leland Ave., 239-5270
MANUFACTURER
SEE'S CANDIES, INC., 345 Schwerin St.
MEDICAL
AMERICAN RED CROSS, BAY AREA CHAPTER, 1704 Sunnydale Ave., 584-3620
HAWKINS VILLAGE MEDICAL CLINIC (Dept. of Public Health), 1099 Sunnydale Ave., Appointments: 715-0310
DR. SAM HO, MD, 2858 San Bruno Ave., 337-6135
NEW CARNIVAL ACUPRESSURE HEALTH CENTER, 2458 Bayshore Blvd., 337-8100
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JOHN KING SENIOR COMMUNITY, 500 Raymond Ave., 239-6233
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ROCK (Real Options for City Kids), 590 Leland Ave., 333-4001
VISITACION VALLEY SENIOR CENTER, 66 Raymond Ave., 467-4499
PHARMACY
VISITACION VALLEY PHARMACY, 100 Leland Ave., 239-5811
PHOTOGRAPHER
WALTER CORBIN PHOTOGRAPHY (freelance), 435 Sawyer St., 587-9471, fax 337-8620
PLUMBING
MARK VOELKER PLUMBING, 99 Arleta Ave., 467-7401
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VISITACION USPO, 68 Leland Ave., (800) 275-8777
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LaFLUE-WALTON & ASSOCIATES, 2428 Bayshore Blvd., 587-8683
CATHY KLINE SAUNDERS (Zephyr Real Estate), 215 West Portal Ave. 731-5011 ex. 163
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BLUE HAWAIIAN RESTAURANT, 107 Leland Ave., 469-9728
G & L BAKERY & RESTAURANT, 198 Leland Ave., 239-6283
HERNANDEZ TAQUERIA & BAKERY, 98 Leland Ave., 587-7721
LUAN FAT BAKERY, 110 Leland Ave., 585-1167
TWO JACKS, 167 Leland Ave., 337-0433
SCULPTOR
CARTORIGINALS (Mikal Carton), 2 Hahn St., 239-4138
SELF-DEVELOPMENT
DYNAMIC DEVELOPMENTS (Marjorie Ann Williams, CEO, Career and Self-Enhancements Specialist) 467-7608
SERVICE PROVIDERS
THE VILLAGE, 1099 Sunnydale Ave., 239-5045
VISITACION VALLEY BAPTIST CHURCH OUTREACH CENTER, 57 Leland Ave.
VISITACION VALLEY BILINGUAL EDUCATION, SUPPORTIVE SERVICES & TRAINING (VVBESST), 120 Leland Ave.
VISITACION VALLEY COMMUNITY CENTER (VVCC), 50 Raymond Ave., 467-6400
VVCC FAMILY & COMMUNITY SERVICES CENTER, 161 Leland Ave., 586-6998, Fax 586-8027
VISITACION VALLEY BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES AND OUTREACH, 1099 Sunnydale Ave., 587-7896 ext. 104
TAVERN
THE CLUB HOUSE, 25 Blanken Ave.
TELEPHONE
D & A WIRELESS, 78 Leland Ave., 452-4139
VARIETY
GOLDEN 99 CENTS ZONE, 5-7 Leland Ave., 333-3923

Victims Pay the Price for Uninsured Drivers

Even though it is against the law to have no auto insurance, it happens more often than most people realize. The Insurance Research Council (www.ircweb.org) reports about one in seven at-fault drivers in a collision with another vehicle will be uninsured.

According to Steve Cox, Vice President of the Council of Better Business Bureaus, based in Arlington, VA, what happens to the insured victim after this type of accident can be upsetting and expensive. Instead of the at-fault driver's auto insurance policy covering the victim's costs for medical expenses, vehicle repairs and a replacement rental car, it ends up being the victim's responsibility to pay for everything.

For this reason, many drivers include uninsured motorist coverage on their auto insurance policy. Uninsured motorist coverage pays for injury and damages caused by an uninsured or hit-and-run driver.

Underinsured drivers are another problem. These are drivers who have only the minimum state required limits of liability on their auto insurance, which may not necessarily provide enough coverage to adequately compensate others involved in the accident. Uninsured motorist coverage pays the difference between the at-fault driver's liability limits of coverage and the actual costs of the injury or damage, as well as lost wages – but only up to the limits established by the policyholder when it is added to the their auto insurance. It also provides protection if an individual is hit as a pedestrian.

Options for Insured Drivers

"Despite the fact that you are the victim if an uninsured driver slams into your car, you are obligated to pay the deductible and your own auto insurance will be used to cover all other expenses," said Gorman.

Expenses go beyond medical. For example, since the at-fault driver's insurance will not cover a replacement rental car, you could be stuck without transportation while your car is being repaired or you are waiting for authorization to get a new car. Since the average car is in the repair shop for two weeks after an accident, renting a car can be very expensive, unless your auto insurance policy includes replacement rental car coverage.

That's why it is important for insured drivers to make sure they have sufficient coverage, including some options worth considering for additional financial protection, including the following:

**Collision Coverage:* This coverage pays for damage to your car resulting from a collision with another car and some other situations, including being hit by an uninsured driver. Collision coverage is generally sold with a deductible of $250 to $1,000 and the higher the deductible, the lower the premium.

**Uninsured and Underinsured Motorist Coverage:* This coverage will reimburse you, members of your family, or designated driver who is hit by an uninsured or hit-and-run driver. Underinsured motorist coverage applies when an at-fault driver has insufficient insurance to pay for your total loss. The coverage also applies if you are hit as a pedestrian. While some states require insured drivers to have uninsured and underinsured coverage, others do not. Some states bundle this coverage together.

**Replacement Rental Car Coverage:* Available for only a couple dollars per month, coverage provides a replacement rental car while a car is being repaired after an accident. Since the average car is in the repair shop for two weeks after an accident, the savings can be substantial. Based on the average daily rate for a rental car, it can end up costing more in most cities to rent a car for one day than for a full-year of coverage.

Visitacion Valley Family and Community Services Center

For a Better, Healthier, Safer Community for All

We Can Help You!

Complete Immigraiton documents, assist with SF County paperwork (Medi-Cal, Welfare, etc.), education workshops, referrals to other services

Third Series of
Interacting with Your Child Through Games and Activities
"Hand Puppet Making"
Tuesday, November 20
5:30 - 7 p.m.
Free dinner, books and educational games.
Participants with children ages 0-5 encouraged.

Second Series of
Parents' Support Group
Thursday, November 15
5:30 - 7 p.m.
Family Relationship, Part 1
Free dinner and childcare!
Participants with children ages 0-5 encouraged.
Facilitated by Julia Carmen, *Before The After*

Every Wednesday
November 7 14, 21 and 28
6 - 8 p.m.

Men's Classes
Facilitated by
Before The After
FREE Refreshments

Free Food Distribution
Every Monday,
3 - 4 p.m.
November 5, 12, 19 and 26
Emergency food box
available anytime.
Call (415) 586-6998,
Monday-Friday,
9 a.m.-5p.m.

November 2007 Activities
held at 161 Leland Avenue
except where noted

Enhanced Information and Referral
Every Monday Through Friday
November 1 to 30, 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Third Series of
Family Hands On Literacy
Theme: Make Your Own Holiday Stockings
Thursday, November 8, 5:30 to 7 p.m.
Dinner and childcare will be provided.

Parent Education Workshop
Topic: Kindergarten Enrollment
Friday, November 9, 5:30 to 7 p.m.
Dinner and childcare will be provided.

Male Involvement Support Group
Thursday, November 15, 5:30 to 7 p.m.

Parent Education Workshop
Theme Household Cleaning
Speaker: Cynthis Pun, FCSC Family Advocate
Thursday, November 29, 5:30 to 7 p.m.

161 Leland Avenue, San Francisco, CA 94134
Tel: (415) 586-6998 Fax: (415) 586-8027 e-mail: meriam_vvcc@sbcglobal.net

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